

# *The Kibitzer*



Summer 2022 | Volume 69, Number 2



**WERT**

Ed Werenich



ACBL  
SANCTIONED

# Bridge Weekend

OCTOBER 14 - 16, 2022

— 2 NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE —

## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CARD GAME

Your hosts are husband & wife team, Martin Hunter and Danielle Gosselin. Martin is an Expert player and ACBL Tournament Director, while Danielle is an ACBL Accredited Bridge Teacher. Enjoy Fern Resort's classic hospitality, great food and lakeside setting in a weekend to remember in the heart of cottage country.

Join us and find out why we're Ontario's All-inclusive Resort.



## OVER 9 HOURS OF BRIDGE PLAY

### DUPLICATE OR SOCIAL BRIDGE

- 4 sessions of ACBL-sanctioned bridge
- Three mini lessons and one workshop.
- Awards, prizes, and more!
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- Meet & Greet wine and cheese party

## 2-NIGHT ALL-INCLUSIVE GETAWAY PACKAGE AT FERN RESORT.

Package includes accommodation, 6 meals per person (dinner on Friday, 3 Meals Saturday, Breakfast & Lunch Sunday), wine & cheese event, all bridge activities and access to seasonal facilities.

**COST:** From \$499 per person

\*based on double occupancy. Single rate available.

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# BARBADOS SUN SEA & SLAMS: FEBRUARY 12 - FEB 19, 2023

## ACBL SECTIONAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT AWARDING SILVER MASTER POINTS

SEVEN NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION INCLUDING ALL YOUR MEALS & DRINKS

USD \$1,190.00 PER PERSON (DBL. OCC.) \$1,505.00 SINGLE OCCUPANCY  
EXTRA NIGHTS: \$170.00 USD per person DBL OCC. or \$215.00 per person SGL OCC.  
Come early or stayover to tour this lovely island.

**HOST HOTEL: BARBADOS BEACH CLUB MAXWELL COAST ROAD, CHRIST CHURCH**  
**This hotel is now sold out. BUT we have room across the street at SUNBAY HOTEL.**

**RATES AT SUNBAY HOTEL: \$1120.00 (dbl occ) \$1435.00 (sgl occ) all inclusive**

BREAKFAST, LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA, DINNER & LOCAL DRINKS ARE ALL INCLUDED. HOUSE WINE WITH DINNER. MANAGER'S COCKTAIL PARTY. CLOSING BANQUET SAT EVE. TAXES INCLUDED. GRATUITIES ARE NOW INCLUDED. HOTEL GOVERNMENT LEVY INCLUDED.

TRANSFERS TO & FROM AIRPORT INCLUDED. BRIDGE COMMITTEE TAKES YOU TO & FROM AIRPORT!

BOOK YOUR OWN AIRFARE (NOT INCLUDED). NOTIFY ROGLYN HINDS OF YOUR FLIGHT PLANS.

Contact Roglyn Hinds [roglynhinds@gmail.com](mailto:roglynhinds@gmail.com) so she can arrange transportation to and from airport

BRIDGE EVENTS ARE NOT INCLUDED. Average: \$15.00 USD per session. All bridge is optional.

This is a smaller tournament. Very friendly and fabulous. It will be sold out so book now.

**Highly recommended by Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel.**

**Barbados is Barbara's homeland for MANY generations (almost 4 centuries!)**

The rate is so excellent that you cannot afford not to do this trip. Get away from the winter!!

**Barbara Seagram & Alex Kornel will be attending the tournament in 2023. There will be TWO free seminars given by Barbara while there (Mon & Tue aft). Alex will also be available to go over hands anytime. The Barbados Bridge League is a full member of ACBL.**

**TO BOOK:** Contact Reservations Department at Barbados Beach Club 1-246-428-9900 or email

[reservations@barbadosbeachclub.com](mailto:reservations@barbadosbeachclub.com) BOOKING CODE IS **BRIDGE 2023**

**DEPOSIT: \$595.00 USD per person (dbl occ) or \$752.50 USD (sgl occ)**

**Fully refundable if you cancel prior to November 30, 2022**

**Think of this as a packaged vacation and not just a hotel room. Hence the revised cancellation policy.**

Contact Roglyn Hinds: Tournament chair [roglynhinds@gmail.com](mailto:roglynhinds@gmail.com) or 246-231-0149

13 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game  
13 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 1 session  
14 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game  
14 Feb: 7.00 pm: Pelau Pairs # 2 session  
15 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game  
15 Feb: 3.00 pm: Rum Pairs  
16 Feb: 9.30 am: Team Game # 1 session  
16 Feb: 3.00 pm: Team Game # 2 session  
17 Feb: 9.30 am: Pairs Game  
17 Feb: 3.00 pm: Lady Burton Pairs # 1 session  
18 Feb: 9.30 am & 2.00 pm: Lady Burton Pairs # 2 & 3



*There is no significance to the names Pelau Pairs, Rum Pairs, Lady Burton Pairs etc: It is just a designation to distinguish one event from another.*

*Average cost per session is \$15.00 - \$ 16.00 USD*

*My name is Barbara Seagram & I am a bridge player, author and teacher. I was born and raised on this beautiful island in the Caribbean. The Barbados Bridge Committee do a wonderful job running this delightful bridge tournament in February each year. Imagine \$1,190.USD per person to spend a week at a hotel on a beach in Barbados in February, including all meals and drinks. They even pick you up at the airport! The players are friendly, the sun shines forever and the island beckons. You cannot afford to not go! It is a very special island and I invite you to visit and enjoy all its magic.*  
[barbaraseagram@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraseagram@gmail.com)



My apologies for a late release of the Kibitzer this issue. As John Lennon crooned, “Life is what happens when you’re busy making other plans.”

It all started in March when three Canadian teams flew to Salsomaggiore, Italy to compete in the World Bridge Championships.

Pictured here is the building everyone played in:



By everyone I mean Open, Women’s, Seniors, and Mixed. The Palazzo Dei Congressi was built in the 1850s! Salsomaggiore is a charming little town, originally built to host the royals from throughout Europe, as it is a sight of natural baths.

See page 21 for a brief write-up on the Senior Team. Although they did not make the top 8 and thus eligible for the quarter finals, they were about to compete in a subsidiary event...that is, until the Mighty C derailed those plans. Yes, Covid. Luckily, because we were all triple vaxed, it didn’t amount to much more than a cold. Still, being quarantined for 8 days is not the most ideal way to see all the sights in Italy.

When we were allowed to leave our hotel, **Doug Baxter** and I took a train to Milan to sightsee.

Here’s the church at the Piazza del Duomo:



My itinerary took me via Berlin, so I hopped off the plane for 24 hours to visit my cousin Nic and his beautiful family. Great to see family halfway across the globe, especially my lovable goofball nieces, Mila (4) and Nelly (7).



If you are keen to learn which clubs are now open for face-to-face bridge do check out the Unit Board of Director pages. Do check your website for current info though.

Please read all about one of Canada’s alltime curling greats, **Eddie Werenich**, on page 14; there is a bridge connection, trust me! Thanks to **Allan Smith** and **John Doucette** for being such a great front end during the Zoom sessions with Eddie.

Thanks to **Robert Griffiths** for continuing to churn out bridge deal after bridge deal for our newer players. **Ray Jotcham** is back, this time with some advanced cardplay technique. **Howard Laufer** returns to share his journey into the world of duplicate bridge. And **Albena Vassileva** is in this issue as our Junior contributor. She has a few hands that help elucidate the mind of the junior player. Thanks to the **O’Haras** for writing a lovely tribute to another one of our fallen brethren, **Robin Stephens** (p. 25). District rep. **Jonathan Steinberg** has an update on saving face-to-face bridge, and **Gary Westfall** sends in a super interesting hand.

Andy Stark  
[andy.kibitzer@gmail.com](mailto:andy.kibitzer@gmail.com)

647 530 1360

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## *The Kibitzer Information*

The Kibitzer is available online at [www.unit166.ca](http://www.unit166.ca), every three months: February, May, August, and November. Readers are invited to share their email addresses with the ACBL so that they may receive notification The Kibitzer is ready for viewing.

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### IMPORTANT KIBITZER DATES:

Issue:	Deadline:	Posted online by:
Fall 2022	July. 15	Aug. 15
Winter 2022	Oct. 15	Nov. 15
Spring 2023	Jan. 15	Feb. 15
Summer 2023	Apr. 15	May 15

## Kibitzer Editorial Policy

The Kibitzer is published to promote bridge and to inform members of ACBL Units 166, 238, 246, 249 and 255 about tournaments and special events, as well as to entertain with deals and articles of interest. It is also a forum for the exchange of information and opinion among the members. Opinions expressed in articles or letters to the Editor are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Unit Boards of Directors or the Editor. The Kibitzer reserves the right to edit or exclude submitted material.

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St. James Anglican Church,  
6025, Old Church Road  
Caledon East, ON  
647-234-6352

Steven Norris [albionhillsbridge@gmail.com](mailto:albionhillsbridge@gmail.com)

- Thur 1:00 pm 499er

### BRONTE BRIDGE CLUB

Walton Memorial United Church  
2489 Lakeshore Road W., Oakville  
Jackie Syer (905) 844-0574  
[jackiesyer@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesyer@gmail.com)

- Wed 12:30 pm Open
- Wed 12:30 pm 0-299\*

\*(\$5 games for the month of June)

### HALTON BRIDGE CLUB

Burlington East Presbyterian Church  
505 Walkers Line, Burlington  
Jackie Syer (905) 844-0574  
[jackiesyer@gmail.com](mailto:jackiesyer@gmail.com)

- Tues 12:30 pm Open

### JOSEE'S BRIDGE CLUB

Armour Heights Presbyterian Church  
105 Wilson Ave. (Avenue & 401)  
Josee Hammill [mjhammill@rogers.com](mailto:mjhammill@rogers.com)

- Mon 12:30 pm 0-20

### MOBRIDGE

Sherwood Village  
2225 Erin Mills Pkwy., Unit #155A  
Mississauga, ON L5K 1T9  
[www.mobridge.club](http://www.mobridge.club)  
[mail@mobridge.club](mailto:mail@mobridge.club)  
Tel: 905-403-1333

- Mon 7:00 pm 499ers
- Tue 12:30 pm Open
- Thu 12:30 pm 0 - 2500
- Fri 12:30 Ppm 499ers

### OAKVILLE BRIDGE CLUB

1250 McCraney St E  
Oakville, ON  
905-257-0304

Darlene Scott [oakvilledarlene@gmail.com](mailto:oakvilledarlene@gmail.com)

- Mon 12:00 pm Open

### TORONTO BRIDGE

Leaside Memorial Gardens  
1073 Millwood Road  
Toronto, ON  
(647) 629-3408

Rob Drummond [info@torontobridge.ca](mailto:info@torontobridge.ca)

Active as of June 9:

- Thur 9:00 am Limited (0-500)
- Thur 12:00 pm Open

Active as of June 29:

- Wed 12:00 pm Open

### TORONTO EAST BRIDGE CLUB

1512 Kingston Road,  
Scarborough, ON  
416-419-3089 - Glenna Richardson  
416-276-6415 - Laurie Miller  
[torontoeastbridgeclub@gmail.com](mailto:torontoeastbridgeclub@gmail.com)

- Mon 7:00 pm 499er and 0-20
- Wed 12:30 pm 499er

Please check the Unit 166 website for up-to-date club information [www.unit166.ca](http://www.unit166.ca)

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Markham, ON  
905-237-7431  
Izhar Haque [Izharhaque02@gmail.com](mailto:Izharhaque02@gmail.com)

- Mon 12:45 pm Open
- Wed 12:45 pm Open

### BARRIE BRIDGE CLUB

18 Alliance Blvd  
Barrie, ON  
705-721-9233  
Jane Foster [janekf74@hotmail.com](mailto:janekf74@hotmail.com)

- Mon 1:00 pm 299er
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 7:00 pm Open
- Fri 12:00 pm Open

### BLUE MOUNTAIN DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

100 Minnesota Street  
Collingwood, ON  
705-446-9592  
Christine Blake [chrisedb@rogers.com](mailto:chrisedb@rogers.com)

- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

### COBOURG DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

232 Spencer Street E.  
Cobourg, ON  
[pgiannandrea@gmail.com](mailto:pgiannandrea@gmail.com)

- Wed 1:00 pm Open

### LINDSAY DBC

210 Kent St. W.  
Lindsay ON  
705-464-9210  
Doug Brenner [dbrenner@sympatico.ca](mailto:dbrenner@sympatico.ca)

- Tues 1:00 pm Open

### ORILLIA DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Orillia Masonic Temple  
24 James Street E  
Orillia, Ontario  
(705) 325 3823

- Wed 1:00 pm 299er
- Thurs 1:00 pm Open

Details at: [www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/orillia/)

### PETERBOROUGH BRIDGE CLUB

184 Marina Blvd.  
Peterborough, ON  
705 745-2331  
Jo-Ann Lang [ptbobridge@gmail.com](mailto:ptbobridge@gmail.com)

- Mon 6:00 pm Open
- Mon 1:00 pm 49ers
- Tues 1:00 pm 0-750
- Wed 1:00 pm Open
- Thurs 1:00 pm 0-750
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

### RICHMOND HILL BRIDGE CLUB

110 Shirley Dr  
Richmond Hill, ON  
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- Thur 12:45 pm Open

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Thornhill, ON  
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## UNIT 249 ACTIVE BRIDGE CLUBS

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2481 Kingsway Drive  
Kitchener, ON  
519 893 4595  
Jim Dalgliesh  
[clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com](mailto:clubmanager@grandriverbridgeclub.com)

- Mon 9:00 am Bridge Lab
- Tues 1:00 pm Open
- Fri 1:00 pm 499

Active as of June 10:

- Fri 7:00 pm Open

### GUELPH BRIDGE CLUB

23 Victoria Rd N,  
Guelph, ON  
519-763-7160  
Thea Davis [clubmanager@guelphbridgeclub.org](mailto:clubmanager@guelphbridgeclub.org)

- Mon 1:00 pm 199, 499
- Wed 1:00 pm 99, Open
- Fri 9:00 am lesson, non-sanctioned game
- Fri 1:00 pm 499, Open

## UNIT 249 ACTIVE BRIDGE CLUBS

### KINCARDINE FRIDAY BRIDGE CLUB

Playing Site  
601 Durham Street  
Kincardine ON  
Mailing Address  
430 McLeod Avenue N2Z 1X1  
226-396-6008  
Tom Rajnovich [tom.rajnovich@gmail.com](mailto:tom.rajnovich@gmail.com)

- Fri 1:00 pm Open

### LONDON BRIDGE CENTRE

9-1106 Dearness Drive  
London, ON  
519-601-2582  
Janine Higgins [presidentlbc@rogers.com](mailto:presidentlbc@rogers.com)

- Mon 9:15 am 0-500
- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Tue 1:00 pm Bridge Lab
- Thur 1:00 pm 0-100
- Thur 1:00 pm 0-1500
- Fri 9:15 am 0-500
- Fri 1:00 pm Open

### MAPLE CITY DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

304 St Clair St, Chatham, ON  
USB Sports Bar downstairs  
519-809-7000  
Gary Robertson [garroberr@gmail.com](mailto:garroberr@gmail.com)

- Mon 1:00 pm Open
- Wed 1:00 pm Open

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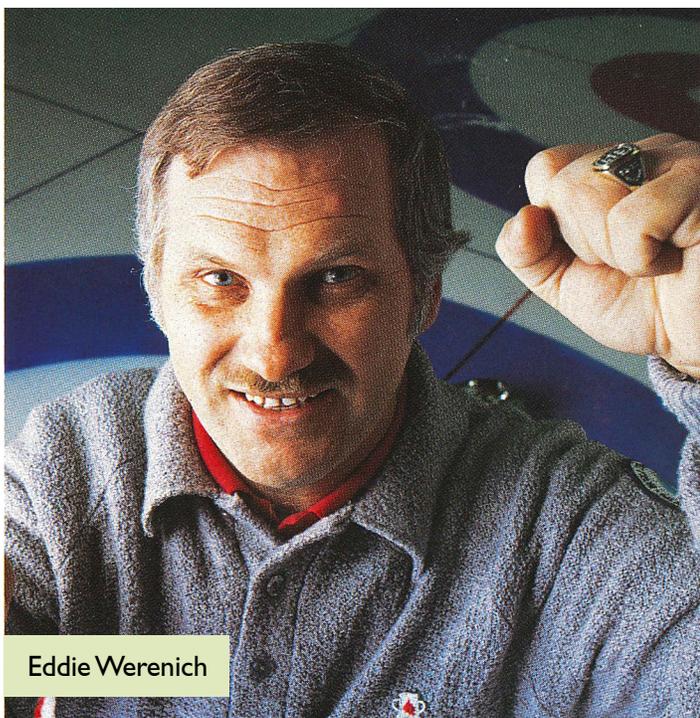
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# The Wrench: A Curler and a Bridge Player

In 1973, Ed “the Wrench” Werenich won his first purple heart—curling’s award for winning a provincial championship. Ed played second for Paul “The Round Mound of Come Around” Savage. They would go on to win two more Ontario playdowns with Savage skipping. Each time they would finish second or third at the Brier, Canada’s national championships. In 1981, Werenich formed his own team and skipped it to an Ontario championship only to finish fourth at the Brier. It all came together for Ed in 1983 when he brought Savage back to play vice and added John Kawaja at second and Neil Harrison at lead. They had a dominant 11-1 record in the provincials and then went on to win not only the Brier but the world championships. Later, in 1990, with a different front end, Ed went on to win his second Brier and world championship.



Eddie Werenich

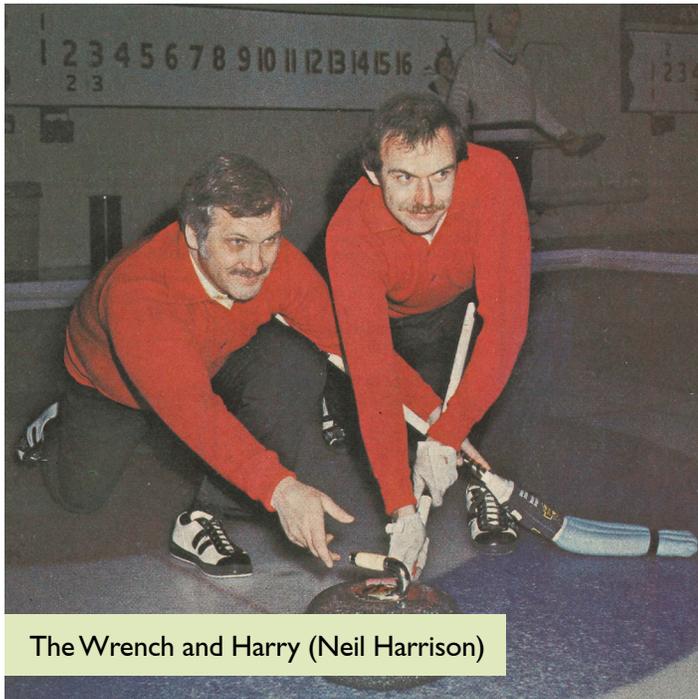
But this is not a curling story per se, it’s a bridge article—because one of the world’s alltime greatest curlers just happens to be a bridge player. Ed Werenich, first started playing bridge while working as a firefighter in Toronto. “Early on, I happened to make a grand slam and from that point on, I was hooked,” he told me during one of our early March Zoom sessions, which was also attended by two other bridge-playing curlers: former Torontonians and now Barriars, John Doucette, and former Peterborians and now Tinyites, Al Smith.

The firefighting bridge players had a standing rule: If an alarm went off and they were in the middle of a bridge hand, the hand was considered a wash. It was the only way to prevent squabbling after the emergency was taken care of. From there Ed gravitated towards the ACBL club games. Eventually he partnered up with John Doucette, a top curler in his own right. A few years ago, John brought Eddie out to the Toronto Easter Regional. That’s where I first met Ed—at the bridge table—he was the same disarming jovial self then that he is today.

Now Eddie will be the first to tell you, that, as a bridge player he’s a fabulous curler. But he has a great attitude towards playing bridge; he plays on BBO and takes on new conventions and he constantly tries to get better. The ol’ noggin isn’t what it used to be, but then, whose is? During our Zoom session the classic Eddie giggle was on full display as Ed, John, and I traded stories and compared bridge with curling.

Any bridge player who has tried to curl will know and appreciate the similarities between the two games. The obvious one is you compete in teams of four. Take a Swiss team for example. As for curling, other than Brad Gushue winning the most recent Brier three-handed, 99.9% of

curling teams play four-handed. Then there is the situation of how you handle your teammates' mistakes, and your own, which are crucial for establishing harmony and chemistry amongst teammates. Both games are mistake oriented; any world champion will tell you that. It's often the true champs who are most humbled by their respective game. While curling has the double takeout, bridge has the takeout double. And as Eddie says, "Both games require finesse."



The Wrench and Harry (Neil Harrison)

The finesse shot was Eddie's bread and butter. John recalled a typical curling scene from years ago, two teams sitting around after a curling match, having a barley sandwich or two, swapping stories, sharing some laughs, when someone posed the question: "To save your life, who do you want throwing a rock to the button?" One said Rick Folk (because he played with Folk), and one said Al Hackner (two-time Brier and world champ). The other six all said The Wrench. If you look at old videos on YouTube and watch Eddie's delivery, it's smoother than some of the top players of today. The Howards had it too: the rock comes out of their hands with no fidgeting, no extra thrust, just a smooth forward going gentle release.

Our first chat was on a Tuesday during the Brier. I asked Eddie who he loved watching play on TV and the first name he mentioned was Kevin Koe. "He's fearless," Eddie said, "and in the tenth end he's willing to take on any shot. A couple years ago, the shot he pulled off for a deuce to win the Brier

was so difficult—and he made it look easy." Perhaps you, too, remember the shot to beat Brendon Bottcher. Koe went for a thin double and made it. To do so he had to just slice the top rock, and then at the perfect angle ricochet off it to get the second rock out. A centimetre either direction and the first rock would either not get hit at all or get hit too fat for the proper angle. But to hear the awe in Eddie's voice was telling—he genuinely is a curling fan.

We talked about some of the curlers of yesteryear. I would say a name and Eddie would respond. For example, "Rick Folk?" "Oh, he was a class act—a real gentleman. We destroyed his team in the final of a bonspiel out west and he didn't bat an eye. We all sat down and had a beer afterwards." "Russ Howard?" "We played against each other in so many high-level events, we were like brothers out there." "Glenn Howard?" "All around good guy." Ed Lukowich? "He was a great curler, but his team pushed the sweeping rules at that time. I told him, 'You guys are too good to have to do that stuff.'"

During that first Zoom session I learned that Ed is of Ukrainian descent and probably why his father took the family to settle in Benito, Manitoba—to be near many other Ukrainian immigrants. There is an annual festival in a nearby town. Eddie has two sons, both former curlers and each have two children. Eddie has four grandchildren—do the math and that's perfect for both curling and bridge!

We talked about the Brier and how Gushue won playing three-handed as his vice Mark Nichol tested positive for Covid before the semi-finals. I asked Eddie if that was an advantage for a team because two players get to throw a third rock. He said it depends on whether they are playing well. "Usually if you miss your first shot in curling you can't wait to get back and make your second, so in this case if you miss your first you get two cracks at making your second or third. It all depends on the individual."

John, Eddie, and I did a fantasy draft to form an alltime curling team. John got the first pick and chose Neil Harrison as lead. (John curled with Harrison out of the Royals Club before Eddie had even met his future world champion lead.) Eddie took John Kawaja as vice. I took Gushue as skip. Back to John who drafted Eddie as skip. Eddie then took Kevin Koe as skip and I took another Newfoundlander, Mark Nichol at vice. John rounded out his team with EJ Harnden at second and Brett Laing at vice. Eddie took Pat Perroud at lead and an "off the board" Ron Green at second. I rounded



1981 Ottawa Regional winner Al Smith, top right

out my team with Ben Hebert at lead and yet another player from down East, Brett Gallant at second. The great thing about curling (arguably the greatest thing about curling) is that four knee-sliding duck hunters from Napanee could take out any one of those star-studded teams. How's that possible? Well, as they say, "You're only as good as the day you curl." And isn't the same thing true about bridge? Well, for the most part.

Eddie has been retired for a few years now but has time in the mornings to drink lots of coffee and attend to his fantasy sports including two football and two baseball leagues. In the afternoon he does yard work. John asked, "Do you still have my tractor?" Eddie replied, "Oh no, I sold that one to my neighbours and bought a new one." In his spare time, John is learning Spanish, (studying for three or four hours a day), driving a school bus and brushing up on his golf rules as an official for Golf Canada. At the time of writing, he was in the process of re-certifying, and now has his certificate.

A great curling tradition is to sit down with the opposing rink and have a beer after the game—in Ontario the winners buy the first round. I asked Eddie if his demeanour changed after the game whether he won or lost. Eddie said it depended on the team but that after a round or two the mood was softened, and any bitter loss wasn't so bad anymore. Eddie also said that many teams would want to pick his brain. He'd reply with something like, "That shot you made in the fifth, I don't think that is the percentage shot." He mentioned how many friendships were made that way. But also, that a couple drinks would often lead to a couple drinks too many. That's curling! "Especially at the club game," Eddie remarked. John chimed in, "Just for the record, after a game, nobody tried to pick my brain."

I could not help but think how similar bridge is in that respect. If someone better than you is willing to share their expertise, it builds camaraderie and community. If the "Flight A" player is willing to share, what better way to learn the game? In bridge it's like asking an expert something like, "How should I know to bid game there?" And the expert responding, "Well you have more than 9 HCPs." "No, I only had exactly 9 points: one ace, one king and one queen." "Ah, but look at where they were located: you had the queen in your partner's long suit, the king in partner's second suit, and an outside ace. That's gold. Easily worth upgrading to 12 or 13 points." And so on. Both curling and bridge are games of percentages.

Our second Zoom session included Al Smith. I asked Eddie, "When did the toothpick become part of your curling uniform?"

**Eddie:** If I give you a closeup of my teeth you would understand. I had a lot of work to do. Should have bought shares in a toothpick factory. Seriously though, the toothpick habit started on the farm, like chewing on a piece of straw. Something to do.

**Andy:** Did you ever see Al Smith curl?

**Eddie:** The memory's not that good, but I knew he was a helluva golfer and obviously a great bridge player. How you doin', Smitty?

**Al:** Good, Eddie. You know, I always threw at your foot. Your broom was never in the right spot.



Young Eddie Werenich, 2nd from right

**Eddie (chuckling):** And a sharp tongue.

**Andy:** How did you get into curling, Al, and how high did you compete?

**Al:** I started when I was 27 and we won some Ontario stuff in the early 80s, but I was never at the level of Eddie. Of course, Eddie played with Peterborough's hero of curling.

**Andy:** Gowdy?

**Al:** Harry. Neil Harrison. The Harrisons are curling legends in Peterborough. It's like Eddie out in Manitoba.

**Eddie:** I should add at this time that I have lost ten pounds...it looks like you found it.

**Al:** I found it!

**Andy:** I found it!

(John did not find it—he's as fit as a fiddle.)

**Andy:** Eddie, what's your drink these days, are you still a beer lover?

**Eddie:** I had a bit of a scare a few years ago. Every time I had a drink my heart would go crazy so nowadays, I am almost a teetotaler.

**Andy:** Seems to me pound for pound, out of all athletes, curlers are the best drinkers in sports.

**Al:** Eddie and I were just talking about that. Today's curlers are so fit, they eat fruit at the break. In our day we'd chug back a beer or two or even down a hotdog if we were hungry.

**John:** Two well known curlers at our golf club, one a world champion, would pack 24 beer in the cart and away they would go...typically, around the 12th hole the pro shop would get a panic call: "Send out another dozen...we're out!!"

**Andy:** Eddie, regarding curling strategy, today they'll play a lot of freezes to the rocks on the center line even if they have the hammer. How about when you played? What was the prevailing strategy?

**Eddie:** In my day, we'd surprise the other team and throw up a corner guard in the first end and then they'd have a problem deciding what they wanted to do. Teams weren't as

skilled at peeling as they are today. We'd counter the corner guard by throwing up a center guard and that's how you'd get all that action in the four-foot. Before that, Alfie Phillips Jr. would have his team, usually the front end, throw the intentional miss. They'd hog a rock or guard an opponent's rock. Then the other team would say to themselves, "Look at these guys—they aren't that good." Then Alfie would go to work and as usual, he'd win. The intentional miss was a big part of the game back then.

**Andy:** Did you freeze to their rocks?

**Eddie:** No, we did not play a lot of freezes. That was unusual—you would do it if you were desperate. We'd go behind a guard and find that the most effective. Raise doubles and angle raises were not even a consideration.

**Al:** They were the hope and grope shot. Nowadays they make those shots as if they are nothing.

**John:** Take a 10-foot raise back. If we made one of those, we were high fiving each other for a week.

**Andy:** If we could organize a special event that involved bridge and curling, (we'll worry about the logistics of scoring later), but you want four players who can both curl and play bridge, name four people in Canada whom you would want on your team.

**Al:** The three of us are going to play as a three-man team.

(John and Eddie chuckle. Al goes on to name some good curlers who could play bridge but were not all that good at bridge.)

**Al:** Eddie was the only top curler with any talent for bridge. We used to bring out George Berton to play with Eddie at the Toronto Regional.

**Andy:** Guys, if Eddie is rated a 10 as a curler, where are you?

**Al:** Well, Eddie is an 11, he's won a Brier.

**Andy:** Okay let's say if you've won a Brier, we'll call that a 10.

**John:** He's a world champion.

**Andy:** Okay if you've won a world champions—



John Doucette with Hughie

**John:** Two world championships.

**Andy:** That's right, Eddie's won two worlds. So that's our 10! Where are you, Al?

**Al:** I'd say a 6 or 7. I could always play, and I was a good club curler. It's like bridge: there's a million players who can play, but for whatever reason, commitment, or whatever, they just don't reach the upper echelon. As Eddie said, in those days you played with your friends. It's not like today where they recruit people from all over the world.

(I estimate that if Al is a 6 or 7, then John is a 7 or 8, or at least he was. These guys don't curl all that much anymore. Eddie went on to discuss curling's residency rule and how you are now allowed to recruit a team member from another province.)

**Eddie:** I happened to like the old residency rule because I always had three friends who didn't live far from me.

After a bit more chitchat, the four of us sat down to play bridge on BBO. I got to partner Eddie while John and Al

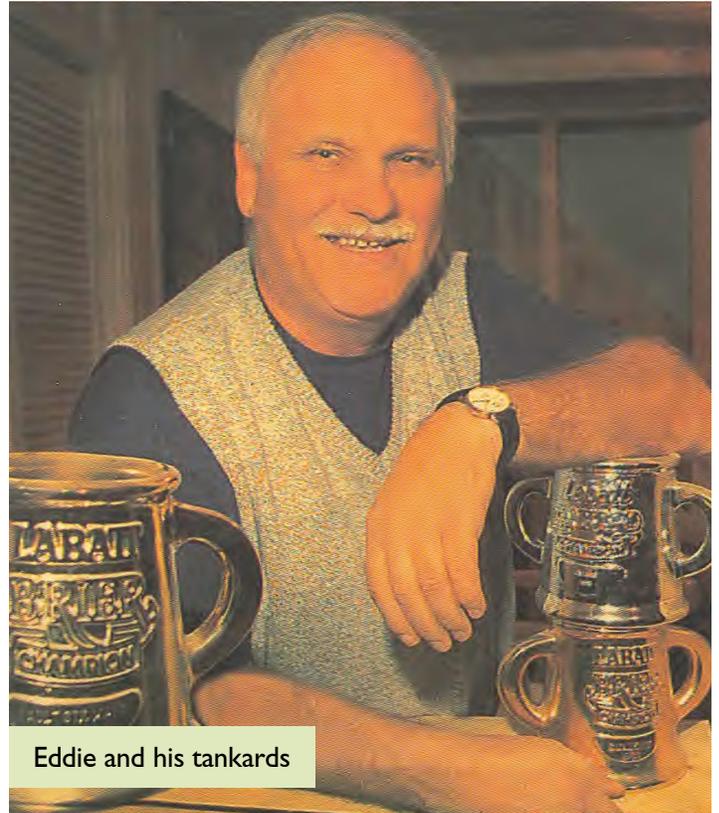
played together, as they occasionally do in life. We recalled that about 20 years ago Al and John teamed up with John Duquette and me to win a Regional Swiss in Buffalo.

A fun story about the Johnny D's (Doucette and Duquette): there were many occasions when John Doucette would receive congratulations for doing well at a tourney when in fact it was John Duquette who had played. John Doucette would correct them and show the difference in the spelling of their surnames. But still the congrats came pouring in. Eventually, after a few years, whenever John got congrats for the other JD, Doucette would just say, "Thanks!" It was a fond memory—being on the team when both JDs won the same Regional. And just who was on their team? Just two ASes.

**Andy:** Al, sometimes I see you on BBO playing the robots.

**Al:** I love those events because I can play 12 boards in about 12 minutes. It's awesome. I can do any stupid thing I want, and not once has the robot said a thing to me. They never say, 'good play'; they never say, 'bad play.'

I asked Eddie if he played the robots, but he does not. Instead, during the pandemic, he plays online with one or two regular partners in a casual game. A great feature of this form of scoring, called 'Imp Pairs,' is that after a board is played, you can immediately compare your result to what other pairs did. If you don't like imps, you can set BBO to score your game as matchpoints, if you prefer.



Eddie and his tankards

After about 20 boards of casual play the Duquette-Smith partnership was too much for us (even with Eddie playing bridge the way he curled, chomping on his toothpick), so Round 1 went to them. Rematch!



Eddie playing BBO this spring



Eddie plays bridge the way he curled. He trusts his instincts. He knows when to be aggressive and when to play conservatively. He's intuitive. John says that to put Eddie in the right perspective; that is, to understand how great of a curler Eddie was, we should think of him as the Bob Hamman of curling. For sure both Eddie and Bob are masters of their chosen craft and influential of numerous younger players. The only difference might be that Eddie is a better bridge player than Bob is a curler. That and Eddie has a more infectious laugh. Where Eddie has a chuckle or giggle, Hamman has more of a guffaw or chortle.

In closing, I shall leave you with Eddie's final words when we ended a Zoom session: "Thanks, guys. It was fun—the most fun I had since I quit curling."

### The Wrench puts up a guard

Dealer: South

Vul: E-W

	♠ A 10	
	♥ 6 3	
	♦ K Q J 9 7 6 3	
	♣ 7 3	
♠ Q 6		♠ 3 2
♥ 10 8 2		♥ A K J 9 4
♦ 10 8		♦ A 4 2
♣ A K Q 10 9 4		♣ J 8 6
	♠ K J 9 8 7 5 4	
	♥ Q 7 5	
	♦ 5	
	♣ 5 2	

During a casual BBO session, Eddie sat South and dealt. He immediately got tactical and "threw up a center-line guard" by opening with 3♠. Would you? Some might not because the spades are not headed by two of the top three honours. But when the vulnerability is in your favour you should bid if you can. A few Souths (6 out of 21) 'chickened out' a bit and only opened it 2♠. But if there are 7 in the suit, you should bid one level higher. In any form of scoring, but especially at matchpoints and with these colours, 99.9% of the bridge experts will open 3♠.

The bidding was passed around to East who balanced with 4♥. This got passed around to North who balanced with 4♠ hoping to push the opponents up one more level. It worked! West balanced with 5♥ and that became the final contract.

Eddie led his singleton diamond. Declarer won their ace and cashed two high hearts, leaving the ♥Q outstanding. Declarer now played on clubs. Eddie ruffed in when he could and played a spade over to North. North cashed one high diamond and switched back to spades for down 2 and a second top.

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John Doucette's re-certification!



# Signore Salsomaggiore

The 2021 World Bridge Championships were held last March-April in Salsomaggiore Terme, Italy (about 90 minutes south of Milan). None of the Canadian teams finished in the medals however the Seniors and the Women were not mathematically eliminated until the last match of the round robin. Representing Ontario were Joan Eaton on the Women's team and Daniel Lavee-Jacob Freeman on the Open team.

The Canadian Senior team consisted of two Ontario partnerships and one from the Left Coast. Toronto's Nader Hanna and John Rayner, along with Doug Baxter and David Lindop, teamed up with the B.C. pair of Mike Hargreaves and Gord McOrmond. They asked your faithful scribe to be their non-playing captain, a great honour which was quickly accepted. After a team dinner on the eve of the tournament, we were all set to do battle for the next seven days. 24 countries were represented and there was to be a complete round robin of 16-board matches, followed by the playoffs. At the end of the first day, we were in the final qualifying position; however, over the next few days, we were outplayed for the most part and it seemed the opponents were luckier than us—a deadly combination.

The 15th board of the 17th round featured one of my favourite hands of the round robin. Here it is as a declarer play problem:

♠ —  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A K Q J 10 4 3  
♣ A 9 8

♠ K 8 7 4 3  
♥ 9 7  
♦ 9 2  
♣ K Q J 4

North deals and opens 1♦. East overcalls 1♠ and South bids 1NT. West bids 2♠ and North ends the auction with the practical call of 3NT. North can count 8 tricks in his own hand and relies on partner (South) for the spade stopper.

West leads the ♥Q. How do you plan the play?

The first order of business is to decide whether to play the ♥K or not. If you do and it is won by East's ace, the defenders will probably take the first five heart tricks. To counter East having the ♥A, you must duck in the dummy. Your plan is for East to win the second or third heart and be fresh out of hearts. (This is called 'blocking the suit.') On the spade switch, you hope East has the spade ace as well. All quite reasonable. Say you duck the first heart as it costs you nothing. East plays the ♥4. Now comes the ♥J from West. Do you duck or cover this one?

When David Lindop and Doug Baxter defended this hand, the Italian declarer ducked the first two heart plays. David, West, then cashed three more hearts! The full deal:

♠ —  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A K Q J 10 4 3  
♣ A 9 8

♠ J 6 5	♠ A Q 10 9 2
♥ A Q J 10 8	♥ 4 3 2
♦ 8	♦ 7 6 5
♣ 7 6 5 3	♣ 10 2

♠ K 8 7 4 3  
♥ 9 7  
♦ 9 2  
♣ K Q J 4

Beating 3NT two tricks at this table, combined with 3NT making twelve tricks at the other table, gave us Canadians 13 imps. Hargreaves and McOrmond 'right-sided' the contract

by having North declarer. East's ♥2 lead at their table did not bruise declarer.

If you are still wondering why declarer refused to cover the heart plays, it is because he was catering to East holding the ♥A in this potential layout:

♠ Q 6 5	♠ A J 10 9 2
♥ Q J 10 8 3	♥ A 4 2
♦ 8	♦ 7 6 5
♣ 7 6 5 3	♣ 10 2

By ducking hearts twice, West will be cut off from enjoying the long hearts.

We Canucks received a top level bidding lesson courtesy of Zia and Meckstroth. First though, what would you do as South with this hand when partner (North) opens 3♥ at favourable vulnerability and East overcalls 3♠? You hold:

♠ K 9 8 5 4 3  
♥ 9 3 2  
♦ 2  
♣ A K 10

Do you make a penalty double? Or do you raise to the

4-level? The Law says you can bid 4♥ here as you have a 10-card heart fit. But Zia, holding that hand, decided to pass! Fortunately for Zia, the auction played out exactly as he had imagined. West bid 3NT and when this came back to South, Zia now bid 4♥. This got doubled by West and 4♥X became the final contract, down 2 for minus 300. As Zia tabled his dummy, he told his screenmate, "I didn't bid 4♥ right away because I didn't want you to find your diamond fit." Here's the full deal:

♠ —	♠ A Q J 10 6
♥ A K 5	♥ —
♦ A 9 8 6 3	♦ K Q J 7 5
♣ Q J 8 7 2	♣ 9 5 3
♠ K 9 8 5 4 3	
♥ 9 3 2	
♦ 2	
♣ A K 10	

Eagle-eyed readers will note that Zia was right: EW have a 10-card diamond fit. And yet, 5♦ does not make after two high clubs and a club ruff. Still, something to file away for



**Mike Hargreaves  
of the Canadian  
Senior Team**

**Canada's youngest  
Senior, Doug  
Baxter, enjoying  
the sites in Milan**



next time you are about to raise partner's pre-empt.

At the other table, EW located their big diamond fit, pushing NS to the phantom sacrifice in 6♥. EW doubled and took the same tricks, so the US team won 11 imps.

One of the hottest pairs in the world over the last 4 days of the round robin was Hargreaves-McOrmond. Here's the hand that earned them a gold star.

Vul: Both  
Dlr: South

♠ J 6	
♥ K 9	
♦ J 10 6 5 3 2	
♣ A Q 4	
♠ A 9 8 7 4 3	♠ Q 5
♥ Q 10 7 5 2	♥ 6 4 3
♦ 8	♦ Q 9 7 4
♣ 6	♣ 9 8 7 3
	♠ K 10 2
	♥ A J 8
	♦ A K
	♣ K J 10 5 2

This was the auction at their table:

West	North	East	South
1♠	2♦	Pass	1♣
3♥	Pass	Pass	2NT
Pass	5♣	Pass	4♣
All pass			6♣

Gord and Mike play weak notrump so when Mike bid 2NT as South it created a game force.

West kicked off with the ♠A lead. Curtains. No matter what the defence does, declarer has a counter. If they continue spades, it picks up the queen and declarer can ruff a heart. If West shifts to hearts, it gives away the heart suit and declarer can ruff a spade. Best defence is a diamond shift. But declarer can win in hand per force, then play two clubs ending in hand, cash the other high diamond, and then play a club to dummy. The ♦J10 of diamonds are now available for a ruffing finesse against East's known ♦Q. Before going back to dummy with the ♥K, declarer can draw East's last trump.

Now here's the cool part: the hand was played 24 times in the Seniors. Two pairs bid to 6NT and went down. Three pairs bid to 6♦ and went down. 18 pairs stopped in the



**The 2021 Canadian Seniors: (from left to right) Doug Baxter, Gord McOrmond, David Lindop, Mike Hargreaves, John Rayner, Nader Hanna, and Andy Stark (npc)**

notrump game, and they all made overtricks. Only one pair bid and made a slam. Sticking out like the 6'4" kid in the 4th Grade school photo were our guys and their sparkling +1370. It came in the penultimate match against one of the favourite teams, England. Jolly good, I say.

Although the Canadian seniors had a chance to qualify for the 8-team quarterfinals, it just was not in the cards on that last day—we needed a miracle, and one was not forthcoming. (We needed six more +1370s!) The team decided to play in a subsidiary event but three positive Covid test results derailed that plan, so three of us stayed in Italy to quarantine while the others got out of Dodge. Pro tip: if you must quarantine, and you enjoy golf, be sure to quarantine when the Masters is on.

If the same team were to represent Canada again sometime there is no question they could go further and even medal. They have three solid partnerships. As testament, the 2022 Canadian Open Team trials wrapped up in late April, just a week before this article was written. The 2021 Canadian Senior team had disbanded onto three different teams in the

2022 Open event and all the three teams advanced to the semi-finals.



**Canadian Seniors John Rayner and Nader Hanna, going over their opponents' convention card**



## Saving Face-to-Face Bridge

By Jonathan Steinberg

The ACBL Board is working hard to save F2F and tournament bridge. I have highlighted the changes below. Please remember this is just the start of a long road ahead. It will require all of us to work together.

I suspect 30-50% of former F2F players still fear large gatherings, travel, and tournaments.

Personally, I think the fear of Covid today is no longer a serious concern for 99.9% of us. Prior to Omicron, I knew some people who had Covid, but not many. Since November, not only have most of my friends and family had Covid, but several have also had it twice! All were fully vaccinated

plus booster and in many/most cases had a 4th shot which is recommended for 60+ or anyone with underlying conditions. All recovered with mild to moderate symptoms. "No big deal" is the way most described the experience. My medical friends in Toronto tell me that almost without exception, everyone in the Intensive Care Units (ICU) in hospitals is unvaccinated. Yet millions of people refuse to believe in the science. Sad.

Perhaps the bigger concern today is the economy. Inflation, the rising cost of gas, out-of-sight airfares, and hotel room rates becoming unaffordable are serious roadblocks.

I just returned from the Raleigh, NC Regional with \$99 hotel rooms (most likely \$124 or \$129 in 2024), \$12 (will soon be increased) entry fees, amazing hospitality, T-Shirt registration gift, plus prizes for section tops and overall winners. They had 2100+ tables four years ago but just 958 tables last week. Fortunately, the District and unit helped subsidize the tournament.

Regrettably, in our geographical area, the upstate NY Regional (Syracuse) August 8-14, the Unit 246 mid-September Regional (Barrie/Oshawa), and the Ottawa Regional October 3-9 have all been cancelled. The number one reason is that the hotel rates would have been too high for the Unit/District to afford. Multiple sectionals this year have been cancelled.

The ACBL survived the pandemic with the help of online bridge games but even more so by Covid relief funding. The ACBL received \$1.2 million from the government. Obviously, that revenue source is gone. With declining membership (now slightly below 140,000), and reduced fees from club games and tournaments, revenue has been significantly reduced. The ACBL must reduce expenses. That topic is the number one issue the ACBL Board and management are currently working on.

Enough of my thoughts. Here are the new rules and regulations that have been approved by the ACBL Board of Directors.

1) Regional tournaments are no longer required to have an afternoon start on the first day of a 7-day Regional tournament. The flexibility of not requiring a night game on the first day of a Regional will assist in scheduling.

2) Face-to-face clubs will be able to hold an additional Royal STAC week during the last 4 months of 2022. As before, masterpoint awards will be 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver, and 25% black points. Every District can schedule it once (one week) anytime during the months of Sept-Dec, 2022.

3) There will be no glitter/coloured points or special games online for the rest of 2022 with two exceptions.

i) NAP qualifying games can be held online in June, July, and August paying double points (half-red and half-black). Note

that F2F NAP club games pay out almost triple masterpoints (just below full Sectional rating).

ii) The ACBL may schedule two online Regionals that are four days in length on September 15-18 and December 20-23, dates that will not conflict with any face-to-face Regional tournaments. Quite frankly, the online regionals were approved in order to increase revenue. That said, note that they are no longer immediately following an NABC and will not conflict with any other event.

4) Masterpoint awards will be adjusted to reflect the number of boards played in club games. 18 board games will pay full masterpoint awards. The awards for games over 18 boards will be adjusted upwards according to the number of boards played. Any game in which more than 18 deals are played will pay the full award times a factor of  $n/18$ , where "n" is the number of deals played. This proposal will take approximately three months to implement. This means F2F games playing more boards (usually 22 to 27) will issue more masterpoints than shorter online games. The more boards you play, the greater the masterpoint award.

5) There will be a reduction in the maximum VACB club awards from 4.0 to 2.5. This change will be effective July 1, 2022.

6) For four weeks - the last week of June, the first week in July, and the first two weeks of November, all face-to-face club games can be run as Upgraded Club Championships. Clubs can promote these as "get back to the club" weeks.

7) At all Sectional and Regional tournaments, overall awards will be increased by 20% beginning on May 30, 2022 and will extend for one year to tournaments ending on May 21, 2023. Section awards will not be increased.

8) The visitor policy will no longer be enforced for VACB clubs that run fewer than 50 tables per week. This will be effective by July 1, 2022 and allow small clubs to grow their online games.

While the above measures are no magic solution, I feel they will help and may be adjusted as required.

# In Memoriam

## Robin Stephens

It's almost impossible to express what Robin meant to our family: He was loved beyond words.

Robin was born in Whitehorse in the Yukon in 1948 but grew up in Montreal (Lachine) where there was a strong bridge playing community at the time with the likes of Kokish, Nagy, Mittleman Molson, Silver and Baran. Everyone had a nickname and Robin's was Rhino, though we never understood the origin. I guess starting off your bridge career with such notables, Robin developed into an excellent bridge player. His declarer play was his strength and sometimes it needed to be after getting us into some "iffy" contracts. He would always pull it off with his wizardry and smile almost to say, "See you didn't need to panic."

Paul and I first met Robin in 1980 at the NABC in Boston and that was the beginning of a friendship that lasted over 40 years. We later met his mom Joan and from that point on we had new travel companions and bridge partners but most of all loyal friends. Robin would plan all our bridge trips which always included stops to the outlet malls so he could buy his Nautica attire for the summer. Joan would make a picnic and we would find a spot by a river to discuss our bridge strategy before getting to our destination. Those 30 years spent travelling and playing bridge with Robin and Joan will always be cherished memories.

Robin was always there for our three kids almost from the day they were born. He would sometimes offer to babysit them so we could play bridge, even taking them to Marineland. This was quite the adventure with three little kids, but it was only one of a thousand kind things Robin did for other people. I will always remember his love for his cousin back in England. They were very close in age and when Stewart was very sick with brain cancer Robin quietly took a leave of absence and went back to take care of him. He never expected praise but his devotion to his family was never more evident.



He also left a lasting impression on the bridge community. After retiring from a career in the hospitality industry Robin turned his sights on directing. It wasn't long after passing the director course that Stephen Laufer taught him the ropes of being a working director and eventually offering him a partnership in Stephen's Bridge club. Robin's path was now set. He loved every minute of directing and teaching and after reading all the wonderful tributes that were posted online it seems he was loved back. I know Robin would have been deeply touched and humbled at how much his friends and fellow bridge players valued him as a person. He truly was a wonderful man.

Robin leaves behind his loving sister Liz Doll and her partner Chuck. He was an adoring uncle to Rachael and Conor and a great-uncle to baby Sophia.

Goodbye my dear friend, I will miss you forever.

Roisin and Paul O'Hara



# For Newer Players

By Robert Griffiths

## Sacrifice against 3NT

I was East and opened 1♠ after two passes. My hand was a bit light but in 3rd seat, with 5/5 in the majors, 10 HCP was plenty.

South was probably hoping for no interference but now had to start with a double. My partner dug deep to find a 2♠ raise, passed by North and myself.

Now South, counting on an opening spade lead, jumped to 3NT. On a spade lead he would easily win his 9 tricks.

Board 12  
West Deals  
NS Vul

	♠ J 8 2	
	♥ 2	
	♦ 9 8 6 4	
	♣ Q J 9 7 5	
♠ 9 7 4		♠ K 10 6 5 3
♥ Q J 8 4		♥ A K 9 7 5
♦ 10 7		♦ 2
♣ K 10 8 2		♣ 4 3
	♠ A Q	
	♥ 10 6 3	
	♦ A K Q J 5 3	
	♣ A 6	

3NT was passed back to me. I had often played with and against South and felt that he would not have jumped to the vulnerable game unless he was confident of making it. I bid 4♠, not expecting to make ten tricks, but as a sacrifice against his vulnerable game. I expected him to hold a long, running minor suit and some sort of stopper in the other 3 suits.

South doubled my 4♠ and led a top diamond. I lost 3 spades, one diamond and one club to go down two for a score of -300. About half of the field played in a NS partscore and half made the vulnerable game, so our -300 was average. Every South player that bid NT over EW spade bids got his desired spade lead.

If we had defended 3NT and my partner had led a spade, our score would have been -600, for a poor score.

My partner, of course, pointed out that he might have led a heart, giving us the first 5 tricks and the only positive EW score for a cold top.

I robbed him of the chance to make a brilliant lead, so we will never know.

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## Expert Slippage

HW Kelsey was one of the most prolific bridge writers of the 20th century. As a player, he won many British and International competitions. This is a hand that he played in 1970 that shows some of the experts' thinking.

The contract was 7♠. South had shown a very strong hand in the auction and West led a small club. When the spades split favourably, Kelsey, South, could count 6 spades, 2 hearts, 3 clubs and 1 diamond. He needed one more trick.

Board 12  
South Deals  
EW Vul

	♠ Q 5 2	
	♥ K J 7 6	
	♦ J 10 7	
	♣ A Q 6	
♠ 4 3		♠ J 8
♥ Q 10 8 3		♥ 9 5 4 2
♦ 9 6 4 3		♦ K 8 2
♣ 8 5 4		♣ J 10 7 2
	♠ A K 10 9 7 6	
	♥ A	
	♦ A Q 5	
	♣ K 9 3	

I suspect that everybody reading this blurb would do the same counting and mess around a bit, possibly playing the AK of hearts and ruffing a third heart in a futile attempt to build a third heart trick.

Eventually, it would come down to the diamond finesse where, happily for us, the 13th trick would come in.

Kelsey the expert played out all of his spades, hearts and clubs until at trick 12 the lead was in dummy with just the ♥J and ♦J remaining. In his hand was the ♦AQ. He considered the red suits. West had been on opening lead. There was a known strong hand on his right. Kelsey knew that West would avoid leading a suit in which he held a king or queen.

The fact that West had picked a club lead from a topless suit increased the chances that his red suits were not topless.

So Kelsey decided that West was likely to have started with both the ♦K and the ♥J and that they were his last two cards. He led a diamond to his ace hoping to see the king fall from West. It did not fall, so East's ♦K set the contract.

Kelsey considered this a case of restricted choice; the fact that West did not lead a red card increased the chances that he held the high cards in those suits. Kelsey wrote about this hand. "I went down in a grand

slam which any beginner would have made, but I believe the odds were on my side." We cabbages who would have made the slam using the simple finesse would have beaten him on this hand. But Mr. Kelsey would have won more in the long run.

### Bad Balance

Who hasn't had the chance to pass out an opponent's bid at the 1-level, made a balancing bid then regretted it as the opponents went on to a much better contract? Here's an extreme example.

This hand is from a pair game in the 1970s. NS were French international experts while EW were intermediate players trying out their new system which included a strong forcing 1♣ bid for all hands with 16 HCPs or more.

Board 12  
South Deals  
EW Vul

		♠ J 9 2
		♥ J 9
		♦ A 5 4 3
		♣ K 9 4 3
♠ K 10 8 7 6 3		♠ A Q
♥ A K 10 7 6 4		♥ Q 8 5
♦ Q		♦ 10 8 7 4
♣ —		♣ 10 8 6 2
	♠ 5 4	
	♥ 3 2	
	♦ K J 9 6	
	♣ A Q J 7 5	

West dealt and opened with 1♠. The hand has only 12 HCPs, but great playing strength if a major suit fit could be found.

After North's pass, East should have made the normal bid of 1NT after which West might have shown his strength by jumping to 4♥, leaving further decisions up to East.

But after the 1♠ bid, East thought to himself, “We play the big club, my partner did not open 1♣ so he has fewer than 16 HCPs. Since I have only 8 HCPs, we couldn’t have a game.” So East passed 1♠.

The French expert sitting South chose to balance with 2♣, unaware that he was opening a can of worms.

West, reevaluating his gentle approach to the hand, decided now to take charge and jumped to 4♥, giving East the choice of majors.

This made East wake up and rethink his hand. It was still 8 HCPs but all of his high cards were in the suits that his partner was bidding so fiercely. Even an inexperienced player could see that his hand was worth way more than the 8 HCPs that he first valued it at. He finally decided that if West could jump to game when expecting nothing from his partner, then bidding the heart slam was a reasonable gamble. So East bid 6♥, which easily came home, and South regretted not letting West play in his little 1-level contract.

A good lesson from this deal is to keep re-evaluating your hand as the auction progresses. If all your high card points are in your partner’s suits, then your hand vastly improves.

### 3NT or 4♥

East dealt and opened a weak 2♠. South, my partner, considered. He had almost enough to overcall 2NT but not quite. He didn’t want to double without a fourth heart. So he passed as did West and I was uncertain. I was unhappy about forcing the auction to the 3-level with my 10 HCPs but also unhappy about defending 2♠.

I considered a 3♥ bid, but in the end decided to double, planning to bid 3♦ if partner tried 3♣. My partner would not consider this as a power double; I would simply be showing my 2-suiter.

Board 18  
East Deals  
NS Vul

	♠ A 9	
	♥ Q J 6 5 4	
	♦ K 10 9 8 7	
	♣ 3	
♠ J 6		♠ K 8 7 4 3 2
♥ A 3 2		♥ 10 8
♦ Q 6 5 2		♦ J 4
♣ Q 9 6 2		♣ K 10 4
	♠ Q 10 5	
	♥ K 9 7	
	♦ A 3	
	♣ A J 8 7 5	

Partner jumped to 3NT. This was passed out and West led the ♠J, won in the dummy with the ace. South played on hearts; West won his ace after three rounds of hearts, then returned a second spade, won by East with the king. East shifted to the ♣10, covered by South’s jack and won by West with the queen. West got off lead with the ♦2, covered by the 7, jack and South’s ace, leaving us with this 6-card ending:

	♠ —	
	♥ 6 5	
	♦ K 10 9 8	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ 8 7 4
♥ —		♥ —
♦ Q 6 5		♦ 4
♣ 9 6 2		♣ K 4
	♠ 10	
	♥ —	
	♦ 3	
	♣ A 8 7 5	

So, South, in his hand for the last time, cashed his ♣A and ♠10 and led a diamond. At this point he is sure of 2 spade tricks, 4 hearts, 2 diamonds and one club. He had his 9 tricks but he also had the chance to finesse West’s (possible) ♦Q for an overtrick. What should he do?

If this were a team game, South should take his 9 tricks and be happy that a game had been bid and made.

But, in a pair game, South cannot be so complacent. Both South and North took views during the bidding that landed the side in 3NT while many of their opponents would find their way to 4♥. And 10 tricks in hearts will be easy to come by. So +600 is going to score poorly against the 620s of the pairs that bid the heart game.

Knowing all of this, South held his breath and played the ♦10 when West followed low. He had his 10th trick and avoided the poor score that he would have made with just +600.



## Claude's Corner

By Claude Tremblay

Each issue I will present two problems and ask you to make a plan. You might be the declarer or a defender.

### Challenge 1

Contract: 7♠

Lead: ♣Q

♠ Q 9 8 7  
♥ 6 2  
♦ K 6  
♣ A K 9 4 3

♠ A K J 10 4  
♥ A K 9 8 3  
♦ A 9  
♣ 6

What is your line of play on the ♣Q lead? Please explain.

### Challenge 2

Contract: 6♠

Lead: ♣Q

♠ A J 9 6 5 3  
♥ 10 5 2  
♦ A K 10 4  
♣ —

♠ K Q 10 8 2  
♥ A Q 4 3  
♦ 8 2  
♣ K 3

West	North	East	South
5♣	6♠	Pass	1♠ all Pass

West leads ♣Q, what do you do? Please explain your action.

**Solutions are on page 27.**



# When to Lead King from AK

By David Colbert

Let's start out with a deal and an auction. First the auction:

West	North	East	South
			1♥
Dbl	2♥	2♠	3♥
3♠	4♥	All pass	

Vul: Both  
Dir: South

	♠ J 9	
	♥ A 10 9	
	♦ 9 8 7 2	
	♣ K 10 9 8	
♠ A K 5 4		♠ Q 10 8 2
♥ 8 3		♥ 6 4
♦ K J 6 4		♦ 10 5 3
♣ Q 7 2		♣ A 6 5 3
	♠ 7 6 3	
	♥ K Q J 7 5 2	
	♦ A Q	
	♣ J 4	

This hand came up in our intermediate game yesterday. West stretched to bid 3♠ and North, lulled into the momentum of the auction, overbid to 4♥. But if the defence is not sharp, 4♥ is a make!

West led the spade king, got the 8 from partner, and led a low spade over to East's queen. A diamond back scuttled the contract. The defense was made easy by the lead of the K from ♠AK54. West knew partner's 8 was their second or third highest spade and therefore a positive attitude for spades.

Later, Barb Young asked why I led the king of spades and not the ace. Here is my reply:

I led the king because we had agreed on spades in the bidding.

Thus, I would often want to lead the ace, even without the king, i.e., from Axx(x).

The king shows the AK when the suit has been bid and raised.

The lead of an ace from AK is only in a non-agreed upon suit, and only on opening lead.

This is based on logic: In general, an ace lead says, "I do not have the king" Why? Because lots of times we want to bang down aces.

The one time we are reluctant to bang down an unsupported ace is in an unsupported suit on opening lead. *Because* of this reluctance, we all agree that when we *do* lead an ace on opening lead, it is probably not unsupported. (That would not be good bridge.) "Partner, I almost certainly have the king here. I love leading A from AK on opening lead, and I am doing that right now. Please signal me with respect to the third round of this suit." This is good strategic defence provided partner is awake to signal their attitude.

Thus, if it is *any* other time in the hand and we are lucky enough on defense to have an AK, we can lead the king to show *both at once* with our lead.

What could be better than showing two cards at once? No, it isn't clear if the king is accompanied by the queen or ace. Still, we are telling our partner something!

In the old days everyone led K from AK or KQ. After 50 years people realized that banging down a lone ace against a suit contract was, in general, a bad idea. Then a smarty said, "I will only lead the ace on opening lead in an unknown suit if I have the king with it." Her partner

agreed. It became widely adopted.

Then it became habit. *Then* that silly habit thing started affecting peoples' finger muscles and they started doing it all through the hand. So, partner would see an ace played and signal, "Yep, I have the queen," and so the ace player would lead another, and declarer would win the king. Both players would start yelling at each other, saying, "But I thought you had the king!" It did not end well.

Marriages and even partnerships with two males went awry. The female pairs were fine, they just laughed it off... but everyone continued their misguided adventures.

Some of my answers are longer than others; I don't know why.

## Solutions to Claude's Corner

Problems are on page 25

### Answer 1

#### Did you do a Dummy Reversal?

The proper line of play does not rely on finding the trumps divided 2-2 or the hearts divided 3-3 or 4-2. After winning the lead, ruff a ♣ with the ♠J, lead the ♠4 to the ♠7, ruff a ♣ with the ♠K, lead the ♠10 to the ♠Q and ruff the ♣9 with your last trump, the ♠A.

Now lead the a ♦ to the ♦K, draw West's last trump with the ♠9, and you cash ♣K and ♠8, a ♦ to the ♦A and ♥AK. Your tricks are four trump tricks, two high clubs, three club ruffs in hand, two top diamonds, and two top hearts.

**Voila, 13 tricks.**

Here are the hands:

♠ 6 5 2	♠ Q 9 8 7	♠ 3
♥ 7	♥ 6 2	♥ Q J 10 5 4
♦ Q 10 5	♦ K 6	♦ J 8 7 4 3 2
♣ Q J 10 8 7 2	♣ A K 9 4 3	♣ 5
	♠ A K J 10 4	
	♥ A K 9 8 3	
	♦ A 9	
	♣ 6	

### Answer 2

#### Did you pitch a ♥ at trick one?

If you did not pitch a ♥ at trick one, you will lose two hearts. For sure you will lose the lead to the ♣A but your ♣K will be established to pitch a losing ♥ on it.

Try any other ways and you will see that you cannot make the contract without the ♥ pitch. This is the famous loser-on-loser play.

Here are the hands:

	♠ A J 9 6 5 3	
	♥ 10 5 2	
	♦ A K 10 4	
	♣ —	
♠ —		♠ 7 4
♥ K 7 6		♥ J 9 8
♦ Q 3		♦ J 9 7 6 5
♣ Q J 10 9 8 7 5 4		♣ A 6 2
	♠ K Q 10 8 2	
	♥ A Q 4 3	
	♦ 8 2	
	♣ K 3	



# Spot Marks The X

By Ray Jotcham

Frequently in bridge books, a suit is described as AKxxx or Qxxx. This is fine if you are describing some aspect of bidding theory, but in describing the play or defense of a hand, the designation x is demeaning to the cards involved. One of my favourite books in my library is *Right Through the Pack* by Darvas and Hart. It is a collection of 52 deals, each based on a different card in the deck. It is wonderful to read about the three of hearts being the meaningful card in a deal with the stress being removed from the aces and kings. Let's hear it for the little guy! This article will focus on low cards and how they can be significant in a deal.

If one observes weaker players declaring contracts, one tends to see them cashing their aces and kings helter-skelter hoping to establish their low cards. If the card gods are favourable, they make their contract and earn a "Well played" from their partner. If they go down because of a lack of foresight, the screams can be heard all over the club. If you watch strong players, they use the low cards to establish their high cards in a race to establish their needed tricks. A difference in philosophy: cash winners as opposed to establish extra winners.

Our first example is a made-up deal from a fictional team of four match. It is the last board, and you know you need a big swing in your favour. Even then it may not be enough. You are vulnerable and have STRETCHED to bid a grand slam in spades.

♠AKQ832	♠J654
♥AQ10	♥432
♦AQ103	♦J954
♣—	♣32

As in *Mission Impossible*, we will disavow all knowledge of you and your team if you fail. Plan your play on the lead of the club ace. By the way, spades are divided 2-1.

Your thinking should be along these lines: unless there is a doubleton king-jack of hearts onside, you will need three entries to dummy. These entries can only be in spades, so you must ruff the club with the spade queen, saving the low spades which can be overtaken in the dummy. Now you play the spade ace, and the spade eight, overtaking with dummy's jack. Now your attention shifts to the diamond suit. If you lead the jack from dummy, your opponent will duck with a holding of  $\diamond K876$ . If you unblock the ten, he can cover whatever card you play next from dummy and score a diamond trick. Therefore, you must play the diamond nine initially. If it holds the trick, you are still in dummy and can lead the jack, trapping the onside king. After finishing off the diamonds, you still have two low spades to get to dummy with the five-six combination to finesse the heart ten and then the queen. If you go wrong at any stage, down you go. Several spot cards play key roles on this deal.

When all this works, you go and compare with your teammates and find that you won the match by one IMP. Yea team!!

Now a not-so fictional hand from a real team match, the quarterfinals of the Canadian National Team Championships. You are heavy underdogs to a team which has won the event on multiple occasions. The auction is best forgotten, but you have once again reached  $7\heartsuit$ , with South having doubled clubs along the way.

♠AK5	♠742
♥AKQJ109	♥32
♦AJ54	♦K1083
♣—	♣KQ105

After a trump lead, you find yourself needing two entries to dummy: one to set up a club trick via a ruffing finesse, and the second so you can take the pitch. Therefore, we must play for the diamond queen to be over the jack, in order

to have the necessary two entries. Now we must decide how to play the suit. If the diamonds are 3-2, any play will work. But what if they are 4-1? A diamond to the ten will leave us a trick short. Now the play becomes clear! Play the ace followed by the jack. If the jack is covered, dummy's 10-8 combination enables you to finesse the nine later. The contract does make, and you do in fact win the match by one single solitary IMP. A true story. Note that the key card in the deal is the diamond eight.

Not all hands end up in grand slams. Here is a deal on which you have reached an inglorious contract of 4♠.

♠ A 9 8 5 4 2	♠ J 3
♥ J 9 3 2	♥ A K 4
♦ J 3	♦ K Q 10 6 2
♣ 6	♣ Q J 5

The opening lead is a club to the ace followed by a club return. You ruff and note that you must lose a diamond. Hence you must restrict your trump losers to one trick. What lie of cards will allow this without a mis-defense by the opponents? Because you are missing the 6-7 of spades, any 4-1 break means you are toast. So, we must hope for a 3-2 split. If the ♠10 is behind the jack, there is no way to avoid two losers. Hence, we must play for the spade ten to be under the jack, and doubleton as well. Now the winning play becomes clear. Lead the ♠8 from your hand, and let it ride. When you regain the lead, you will now lead the jack from dummy and hope to smother the ten. It works! North started with the ♠106.

What if your opponent plays the ten to the first trick? Then you must play them for ♠K10 or ♠Q10 to make your contract. If instead they play the king or queen, you again must play to smother the ten. On this deal there are two key cards—the eight and nine of spades.

In his book *Master Play*, Terrence Reese described several types of secondary squeeze positions, giving them colourful names like “winkle” and “steppingstone.” The steppingstone entailed giving the lead to an opponent who was stripped of all cards except in dummy's entry-less suit of all winners, a suit in which declarer was void. So, the opponent was used as a steppingstone to access dummy. A variation of this used to be practiced in the 50s and 60s by a bridge-playing priest, who would set up the dummy, and then claim the balance, saying “Dummy's good!” Until they caught on, weaker players

would look at the dummy and concede, not questioning whether declarer had any way to get to the dummy. This became known as the “Father Tobin Coup” after this somewhat larcenous man of the cloth..

On this next hand, you are on defense. Here's the auction:

West	North	East	South
			2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT	Pass	6♠
All pass			

Partner leads the ♦Q, and you must defend.

North (Dummy)

♠ 6 5  
♥ A K Q J 5  
♦ 5 4 3  
♣ 5 4 3

East

♠ 8 7 4 2  
♥ 9 8 7 6 4  
♦ 6 2  
♣ 7 6

Declarer wins the diamond ace and cashes the spade ace. Partner pitches the club queen. Declarer cashes two more spades, and then the ace-king of clubs and finally the king of diamonds. Now, surprisingly, he leads the ♠3! Did you keep the ♠2 so you wouldn't be subject to a stepping-stone? You should have reasoned that the only reason declarer didn't claim thirteen tricks after the lead is that they had a heart void. The only way for declarer to score heart tricks is for you to be careless and not jettison your *high(?)* spades to avoid the endplay. This truly is a strange hand where the hand with a yarborough plays a pivotal role in the outcome of the deal.



You hear the following auction:

West	North	East	South
Pass	4♥	All pass	2♥
Partner, West, leads the ♠7			

♠ K 5	
♥ A K 10 7 5 2	
♦ 6 5	
♣ K 7 5	
	♠ J 10 6
	♥ 9
	♦ A K J 9 8 3
	♣ 10 8 6

Declarer wins the spade ace, leads a heart to dummy (partner shows out!), cashes the spade king, and plays a diamond. You win the king and ace, with declarer playing the queen. It looks as though declarer has stripped the hand, forcing you to play clubs. Which club do you return?

If partner has ♣AQJ or ♣AQ9 or ♣AJ9, it doesn't matter. However, if declarer has ♣J9x or ♣Q9x, leading the six or the ten will pickle the suit. Notice that seven of clubs in dummy. Your 8-6 holding surrounds the 7. Therefore, the

winning return is the ♣8. Declarer must now lose two club tricks, no matter what their holding is. Declarer held ♣Q93, so the play of the 8 is a success.

Just to prove that all surround plays (the previous hand "surrounded" dummy's seven-spot with the eight and six) don't work, here is a similar position.

♣ 10 8 7 4	♣ A J 9 3
------------	-----------

You, as East, are defending a notrump contract, and need to score four tricks to defeat the contract. Declarer's hand has counted out to show they have the queen of clubs and not the king, as all other cards have been accounted for. Here, because of the blockage in the suit, the surround play can't work. Partner has no re-entry to play clubs twice. The only hope is for declarer to hold the doubleton queen. Therefore, lay down the ace, and then play a club to partner's king, smothering declarer's queen. Now a third club from partner allows you to score two more tricks.

I sincerely hope that this article has made you more aware of the role the spotcards (X's) play in many deals and how they can have a key role to play in both the play and defense of bridge hands. WATCH THOSE SPOTS!



# Sorry, Partner

By Howard Laufer

My wife and I were perfect partners until we started playing duplicate bridge.

Marriage is one thing, but bridge is something completely different! I'm not the first one to make that discovery.

Husbands and wives generally do not make good partners in bridge. Some do, but most don't. My first bridge teacher, a retired college professor named, Roy always maintained

that married couples of equal abilities made for formidable opponents because they had a sixth sense when it came to bidding their hands and playing their cards. Well, that wasn't us!

When we first started playing serious duplicate bridge in Clearwater, Florida, many club members took bets as to how long we would survive together as partners.

“You’re a numbskull!” My wife shrieked at me from across the table. “How could I be expected to know that?”  
 “It’s a partnership agreement.” I snapped back.

“Really!” she sarcastically added.

Our nerves were frayed, and our tempers raged. Why couldn’t she just get on the same page with me? Something was always amiss.

The downward spiral started this way. During one afternoon in a club game, I bid 1 spade and my wife responded 1 no trump. I then re-bid 2 clubs. As we walked to the next table my wife asked, “Were you forcing me to bid?”

“Not really. I gave you a choice of suits.” I replied. “Just choose. All things being equal go back to my first suit. Just do it. That’s what Eddie Kantar always says.”

“Who is Eddie Kantar?” was her quizzical reply.

I should have stopped right there but being the know-it-all husband, I continued.

“After I open 1 spade, your INT says that you have 2 or less spades in support. So, I am obligated to re-bid a second suit if I have one. That gives you a chance to take a preference or escape into your own long suit. That’s called ‘space theory’ based on one of Jerry Helms’ lessons.”

“Jerry, who?” she asked, in her oblivious way.

I knew at this point that one of us had to read more bridge articles. ACBL’s monthly Bridge Bulletin was a staple at our house. I know now it was a mistake to save some trees and have only one bulletin delivered to our mailbox each month since it ended up in my reading chair and stayed there until it was joined by the next issue a month later.

That was the beginning of the end of our partnership. It was clear that my wife loved the play of the game but not the work needed to succeed at the highest level. For me, bridge was life or death. I was a guy who liked to win, and I was prepared to do whatever it took to achieve that goal. It took a while, but we knew that our marriage was more important than a “silly” (her words not mine) game of bridge. In 1970, a movie called “Love Story” introduced my generation to the phrase: “Love is never having to say you are sorry.” Boy, did they get that wrong!

Any married guy can tell you that the two most important phrases to learn after saying, “I do” are: “Yes, dear” and “I’m sorry.”

“Let’s find new partners,” I suggested. “Someone who has the same philosophy of the game as we do.” What I really thought was someone who thinks just like me. You know it’s hard to find another person like yourself. Maybe that doppelganger is out there somewhere but in lieu of that, it’s best to find a close facsimile.

The partnership desk managed to fix me up with a dour lady named Betty. “Fixed me up” is the correct phrase because finding a new partner is like being set-up on a blind date. We decided on the same basic conventions to follow, but as far as strategies for bidding and card play, Betty relied on her own set of rules. She loved simplicity so she settled on rhyming ditties to help her play the game. Rather than work hard at learning the game, she liked to use simple mnemonics or rhyming couplets. It was so much easier than real homework.

“When there’s no fit, it’s time to quit,” was one her bidding favorites.

“Nothing wrong with that,” I mused.

Another one she often spouted was, “six and five come alive.” We were in complete agreement on that little gem, too. So far, so good.

She was on a roll with all this rhyming ‘stuff’ and there was no stopping her. She continued, “Second suit agreed, trump is the proper lead.”

“Sounds reasonable as long as it’s not a singleton trump that you are leading.” I countered. She wasn’t listening!

She reached a stumbling block with “eight ever, nine never”. That little phrase took some reasoning which somehow escaped her, so she changed it to “eight or less, always finesse”. Nice adaptation I thought.

“That nine ‘number’ only applies when you are looking for the queen to drop,” I said.

“Really,” she replied. “I thought it just worked for everything.” The divide between us was growing by the minute.

My one suggestion was a simple request. “Let’s use upside down signals.”

Betty balked at that idea. “High–low makes sense to me, why change it? That’s the way I always do it.” I could see the re-occurring theme. Betty knows best! The most annoying habit that Betty had was her inclination to lead away from aces versus suit contracts. I tried to talk her out of making this terrible lead, but she didn’t take kindly to that suggestion. “It always worked with my old partner”, was her rebuttal. It was a good thing we weren’t married because this partnership was destined for a quick demise.

To break up this time, I relied on some old stale excuses that have stood the test of time. You’ve heard them all before. “It’s not you, it’s me” or “Things just aren’t working out. I need to move on with my game.” The break-up reminded me of a 60’s hit song titled, “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do.” It’s going to hurt for a while, but you’ll get over it, so resist the temptation of ever making up again.

Finally, after a couple of temporary partners, I found someone who wanted me for a partner. Now that’s refreshing. One rainy afternoon in Florida, Bob called and asked me for a game. He was a likeable guy whom I had played against many times before in 299er games. He casually mentioned that he was looking for a new partner.

“Uh-oh!” I thought. “What’s wrong with his old partner?” He and Marilyn were a great team. His explanation was simple. “Marilyn wants to play 2/1. She wants to take her game to the next level but honestly, I’m too old to learn a whole new system of bidding. Standard American works fine for me. That’s my comfort zone.”

Sounded like a very logical reason to end a partnership---no animosity—just people going in different directions. It happens all the time.

Right from the start, Bob and I fit hand and glove. We decided to keep the game as simple as possible. Bob always said, “Let’s play as few conventions as needed. I really don’t want to do a lot of memory work at my age.” Even though I was inclined to incorporate a few more new gadgets into our repertoire, I could see his point.

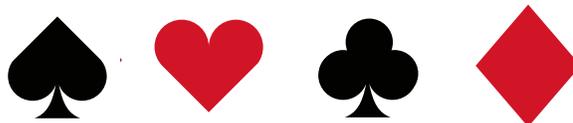
No fancy conventions, just logic and good card play. We were on the same page from the beginning. There were a few speed bumps at first. And the phrase, “Sorry, Partner,” did come up from time to time but since we played the same and thought the same that phrase gradually disappeared from our vocabulary. We discovered that the most toxic word in a partnership is “why.” “Why did you” or “Why didn’t you” were never used to discuss a hand played. All post-mortems just reflected our individual approach to a problem without denigrating our partner’s ideas. Then we worked together to brainstorm the best solution to bidding or playing the hand.

After playing together for a while, we did add a few more essentials but our format for success was still the same: use as few conventions as possible and rely a lot on good card sense. It’s a simple strategy that worked for us. After five years of playing together we graduated from 299er games to 499er games and finally to 749er games. On occasion, we also play in open games when that’s all that is offered on the days that we are free to play. We hold our own and try to have fun.

I discovered after a while that Bob was quite the philosopher. “Leave the bad boards behind,” he always said. “Learn from them, but move on.” Then he would laugh and would add this one cryptic phrase, “On to Cleveland.” I think he was quoting some famous football coach giving a pep talk to a team of demoralized players who had just lost a game. I knew what he meant.

Most bridge pundits stress learning basic conventions as a foundation for a solid partnership. Others tilt the scale towards committing to partnership agreements.

Maybe, both say the same thing----trust your partner. Isn’t that the essential ingredient of all partnerships in bridge? Now you know what makes a good partnership, so if you have one, don’t lose it. They are just too hard to find.



# Correspondence



Hi Andy,

I was saddened to read about Rashid. I met him in the late 1970s when he moved to Charlottetown. He was teaching at UPEI. I think that he moved there directly from Bangladesh. I may be wrong about that and any date I mention.

When he moved to Charlottetown, he quickly found the bridge club and it took him very little time to settle in there. As he was moving in, I was 6 months away from moving to the mainland so although I played with Rashid a number of times, we did not become regular partners. Rashid certainly played bridge at a different level than most Islanders and I wished I could have had more games.

I do remember a few months after he arrived, a carload of Islanders had planned to drive up to Toronto for the Easter Regional, I think in 1979. We were planning to stay at my mother's condo---she was away on vacation.

Rashid heard that the group was going, so he wasn't going to be left out. He came to me and said, "Bob, Bob, I have to stay with your mother!" That was how he told me that he wanted to join the group. He came and we had a wonderful trip. It was my first tournament outside of the Maritimes. Rashid and I played in an open pairs in Toronto and placed, as I remember, high in the overalls. My idea of 'high in the overalls' might not be the same as more seasoned regional players, but I was used to struggling in the open pair games at Maritime sectionals so getting Gold points in Toronto was a very big deal for me.

I remember drifting along the Danforth with Rashid, looking for South East Asian restaurants. I had promised him that Toronto had plenty of them.

Years later, after I moved to Ontario and ran into Rashid at tournaments, he was full of news about all the players from the Charlottetown club. Clearly, over the years he had made many good friends there.

Bob Griffiths

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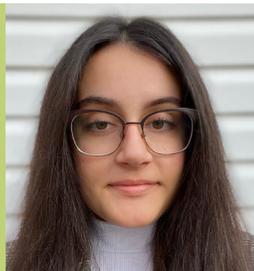
Andy, your article brought back some great memories of watching Ed curl. When you mentioned the toothpicks, I remembered he used to chew on straw he had picked from his curling broom. It was kind of his signature to start off a match. John Rayner and I were worried when the new brooms came in and no more straw to pick. Ed seemed lost for a bit until he settled on the toothpick...but that never had the same appeal to me! Thanks for the fun article once more!

Sandy Thompson

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Andy, your story about Ed Werenich reminds me of my late uncle Walter Drew. When I was a young fellow my uncle was the Fire Chief in Thunder Bay. I asked him to explain to me why the fire trucks were always in such a hurry to get back to the firehall after a fire, usually travelling with all their red flashing lights on. "Simple," he said "they want to get back before they forget which suit is trump."

Jed Drew



# Canadian Juniors

By Albena Vassileva

With face-to-face bridge coming back in Canada, that leaves us reminiscing the past two years of online bridge. While the lack of in-person events was quite sad, it also had its redeeming moments. For one, it brought the opportunity to reconnect with bridge friends for afar. With me and many fellow juniors grown up now and in university, there wasn't always time to play together other than in summer tournaments. I was able to reconnect with many old bridge friends, one being Luke Williams – an American junior. The first time I played with Luke was during the 2013 YNABC in Atlanta, when my regular partner Olivia and I picked up teammates at the partnership desk. Despite rarely crossing paths at in-person tournaments, we were able to play together in a few online events during the pandemic. One of these events was the 2021 YNABC.

Junior bridge is notorious for its wild bidding and play of hand stories. During the YNABC sessions, Luke and I encountered some hands which are quite representative of this. Despite appearing as ordinary hands, the style of junior bridge brings excitement to the most normal boards. This article will explore that notion. I have asked a fellow junior, Erik Hansson of Sweden, to give his opinion on the auctions of several hands we played at the YNABC. I have chosen a few to share here and I will give Erik's hypothesized auction, then reveal our actual auction and result. Here's an exciting scenario:

Dealer: South  
Vul: EW

	♠ J 10 4 2	
	♥ 9 7 5 4	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ 10 3 2	
♠ K 8 3		♠ A 5
♥ A K 8 3		♥ J 10
♦ A K 9 7 2		♦ Q J 6
♣ J		♣ A Q 9 7 5 4
	♠ Q 9 7 6	
	♥ Q 6 2	
	♦ 10 8 3	
	♣ K 8 6	

Seems pretty normal, right? Erik predicted the following mundane auction: "P – 1♦ – P – 2♣ – P – 2♥ – P – 3♦ – P – 4♦ ending up in 6♦ after key cards, hopefully not 7."

The actual auction was a bit more creative:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	1NT	Dbf	Pass
2♥	2NT	Dbf	All pass

**When the dust had settled, North was down 7 tricks in 2NT doubled.**

The art of psych bids is something which juniors quite often enjoy exploring, especially so in junior events. Sometimes it works out pretty well when you psych. Then, sometimes it simply just brings a fun story for all parties involved to tell their friends as it did here. Nonetheless, psych bids (particularly in junior bridge) always make for an interesting scenario.

Albena has recently finished her second year at UBC and will be joining Global Affairs Canada as a Junior Analyst for the summer. She looks forward to exploring the Vancouver bridge scene during the return to face-to face bridge and to returning to junior competitions. Albena also hopes to get a bridge club running at UBC next year!

We then continued to another board:

Dealer: West  
Vul: Both

	♠ 7 4		
	♥ 10 4		
	♦ A 10 8 4		
	♣ 10 9 7 6 2		
♠ K Q J 9 5 3		♠ 8 6	
♥ 2		♥ K J 9 7 5	
♦ K 7 6 5 2		♦ Q J 9	
♣ J		♣ Q 8 4	
	♠ A 10 2		
	♥ A Q 8 6 3		
	♦ 3		
	♣ A K 5 3		

Still seems to be a fairly standard hand, right? Erik predicted the following: "1♠ – P – INT – X – 2♦ – P – P – 2♥ – 2♠ – All Pass." However, juniors rarely stop bidding at the 2-level! The real auction was:

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
Pass	4♣	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	5♣
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

With the final score of 5♣ doubled just making. This represents three facets of junior-style bridge quite well: enjoying preempts, unwillingness to play a low-level contract, and love for doubles. You certainly never get bored during a junior game!

Next, Erik and I discussed this hand:

Dealer: South  
Vul: NS

		♠ 10 9 4		
		♥ A J 9 4 3		
		♦ K J 6		
		♣ J 6		
♠ 8 6			♠ A J 7 3 2	
♥ 10 7			♥ K Q 8 6 5	
♦ A Q 10 9 7			♦ 10 6 3	
♣ K Q 10 7			♣ A 8 5	
		♠ K Q 5		
		♥ 2		
		♦ 8 5 4 3 2		
		♣ 9 4 3 2		

Still doesn't look like a particularly special hand, does it? Erik predicted a rather normal auction: "P – 1♦ – 1♥ – P – P – Dbl – All Pass or if they didn't overcall it would go P – 1♦ – P – 1♠ – P – 2♣ – P – 3NT."

However, as you probably already guessed, junior bridge doesn't really follow your standard auction. The actual auction:

West	North	East	South
			Pass
1♦	1♥	1♠	2♦
Pass	Pass	Dbl	All pass

With a final score of 2♦ by South doubled, down 3.

If there's one bid juniors like to use most, it's definitely Double!

Despite Luke's and my actual auctions and final contracts being a bit more exciting than what was predicted by Erik, one of the hands I gave to Erik yielded a more interesting result by his opinion than what happened at the (virtual)

table. While not the most thrilling hand of all time, it still provides an example of how the junior mindset always gravitates to an exciting result whether through bidding or through the play of the hand.

This last hand featured the following:

Dealer: East

Vul: None

♠ 9 7 6 5 3  
♥ 5 2  
♦ A K Q 8 5  
♣ 3

♠ J  
♥ J 9 8 7 6 4  
♦ J 7 4  
♣ A K 9

♠ Q 8 2  
♥ A K 3  
♦ 10 6 3  
♣ J 10 6 2

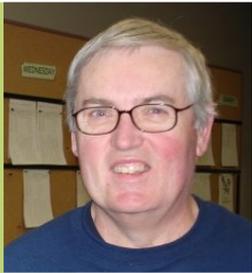
♠ A K 10 4  
♥ Q 10  
♦ 9 2  
♣ Q 8 7 5 4

Erik predicted the following auction. He said, “P–1♣–1♥–1♠–2♣–2♠–3♥–4♠ and maybe they even double you guys in it.”

Here, our actual auction did not live up to the expectations of junior bridge – no doubles, and no excitingly too-high-level contracts:

West	North	East	South
		Pass	Pass
1♥	1♠	Pass	2♠
3♥	3♠	4♥	Pass
Pass	4♠	All pass	

With the final score of 4♠ by North making. No double! Whether be it through the contract reached by Luke and me, or through Erik’s opinion, these hands serve as a reminder that the spirit of junior bridge remains alive!



# Is this a record?

By Gary Westfall

♠ K 9 8 6  
♥ 10 4 2  
♦ A K Q  
♣ K 8 2

♠ Q 7 4  
♥ K Q  
♦ 10 2  
♣ Q J 10 6 5 3

♠ A J 10 3  
♥ 9 8 5 3  
♦ 5 3  
♣ A 9 4

♠ 5 2  
♥ A J 7 6  
♦ J 9 8 7 6 4  
♣ 7

could have signed off in diamonds but chose to pass INT which became the final contract.

East led a fourth best ♥3 which declarer ducked in dummy, West winning the queen. West switched to the club queen. Declarer did not cover with the king but after the queen held and West continued with the jack, declarer covered, East winning the ace. East reverted to hearts. North sensibly played low again and West won the king.

West now cashed four more clubs while East pitched their remaining hearts plus a diamond. West got the message and switched to the ♠4. Declarer popped king so East won the ace and EW cashed three more spade tricks. If you’re counting, that’s the first 12 tricks for the defence!

This hand came up at Jackie Syer’s Halton-Bronte Monday open game in mid-May. North dealt and opened INT. South

Please join us for the  
***THORNHILL SUMMER SECTIONAL***  
**July 2 & 3, 2022**

**Welcome Back**

During this Covid lull, we hope you have fun, win *silver* points, enjoy great bridge and our hospitality.

**ALERT:** *Proof of Covid vaccinations is require to participate in this event. A registration desk will be set-up outside the playing hall for this purpose. Please ensure you arrive by 10:30am so we can complete this task and start the game on time. Masks are mandatory at tables where a player insists. To refuse is a **Zero Tolerance penalty.***

**Event Schedule**

**Saturday, July 2**

Stratified Open Pairs - <i>Two session event, single entries welcome.</i>	11am & 4 pm
A: open, B: 750 – 2000, C: 0 - 750	
0 – 300 Pairs - <i>Two session event, single entries welcome.</i>	11am & 4 pm
0 – 50 Pairs (if numbers sufficient)	11am & 4 pm

**Sunday, July 3** Stratiflighted Swiss Teams 11:00 am. & TBD  
*Playthrough, lunch on site*

Flight A/X: (separate) A=3000+, X=0-3000  
Flights B/C/D: B=750-2000, C=300-750, D=0-300

Stratification is determined by the average of the pair or team, however, averaging does not allow a player to play in a strat if the player's total masterpoint holding is greater than that stratification's maximum number of points.

**Session Fees:** \$15 (*includes HST*) for ACBL members  
(\$4 additional fee for unpaid ACBL members, for players with no ACBL number, \$5 for students.  
**Special rate for players with 0 – 20 masterpoints - \$8**

**Tournament Chair** – Linda Lord, lindaleelord@hotmail.com, 905-713-9141

**Partnerships** – Ruth Falkenstein, used2babraver@hotmail.com, 416-845-5626

**Location** – Main floor, south end of the Thornhill Community Centre, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, L3T 4P1. The Centre is on the northeast corner of Bayview and John Street. John Street is between Hwy 407 and Steeles Ave.

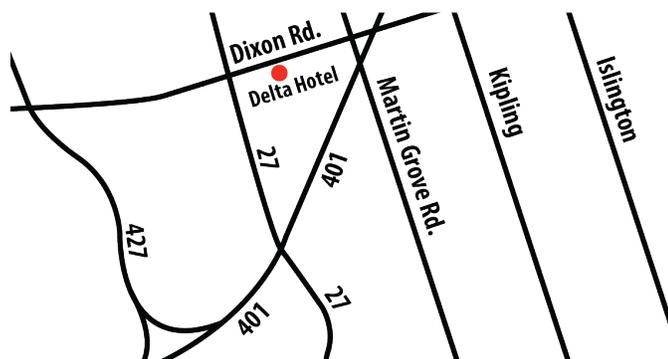
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# TORONTO SUMMER REGIONAL

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Or call 1-800-668-3656 or  
416-244-1711 ext. 3775

**Tuesday July 5, 2022**  
Bracketed KO Teams 1(1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
Open pairs (Open/4000/2000) 10:00 & 2:30  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 10:00 & 2:30  
Swiss Teams - single session 2:30

**Wednesday July 6, 2022**  
Bracketed KO Teams 1(3 & 4 of 4 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
Open Swiss Teams (Open / 3000) 10:00 & 2:30  
Open Pairs (Open/2000/750) 10:00 & 2:30  
Bracketed Super Gold Rush Teams (0-1500) 10:00 & 2:30

**Thursday July 7, 2022**  
Stratified Open Pairs (Open/3000/1500) 10:00 & 2:30  
Bracketed KO Teams 2(1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
Stratified Fast Pairs (Open/2000/1250) 10:00 & 1:00  
finish by 3:30  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 10:00 & 2:30  
Swiss Teams - single session 2:30

**Friday July 8, 2022**  
Bracketed KO Teams 2 (3 & 4 of 4 sessions) 10:00 & 2:30  
Extra Chance KO Teams 10:00 & TBA  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 10:00 & 2:30  
Stratified Open Pairs (Open/3000/1500) 10:00 & 2:30  
Stratified Fast Pairs (Open/2000/1250) 10:00 & 1:00  
Finish by 3:30  
Extra Chance Swiss 12:00 & TBA

**ZERO TOLERANCE for unacceptable behaviour!**  
If someone negatively affects your enjoyment at this tournament, please contact a Director IMMEDIATELY. A fun time is guaranteed for all!

### Saturday July 9, 2022

Extra Chance KO Teams 2 10:00 & TBA  
Extra Chance Swiss Teams 12:00 & TBA  
Open Pairs (Open/4000/2000) 10:00 & 2:30  
Super Gold Rush Pairs (1500/750/300) 10:00 & 2:30

### Sunday July 10, 2022

Flight A/X Swiss (Open/4000) 10:00 & TBA  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams(0-3500) 10:00 & TBA  
Bracketed Gold Rush Teams (0-750) 10:00 & TBA

**Session fees: \$18 CAD (members)**

**All players must have an ACBL Member Number**

Free guest memberships are available for those players who have never been a member of ACBL  
Email [darlenescott@me.com](mailto:darlenescott@me.com) for further information

**Guest members and full members whose dues are not current, will be charged an additional \$4 per session.**

**Single sessions entries are available to all pair events**

**Bracketed KOs may be handicapped at director's discretion**

**Tournament Chair: email preferable**

Darlene Scott 905-257-0304  
[DarleneScott@me.com](mailto:DarleneScott@me.com)

**Partnership:**

Charlene Richardson 226-337-4453  
[partners4U@wightman.ca](mailto:partners4U@wightman.ca)

Novice schedule on page 2



# Tillsonburg's Golden Leaf Sectional Bridge Tournament Aug. 6-7, 2022



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Tournament Chair – Jed Drew [Jed.Drew@gmail.com](mailto:Jed.Drew@gmail.com) (519) 842-8786

Partnerships – Diana May [dianamay@hotmail.com](mailto:dianamay@hotmail.com) (519) 409-0560

<p><b>Saturday, August 6</b></p> <p><b>Single Session Entries Welcomed</b></p> <p><b>11:00 am &amp; 3:00 pm</b> <b><u>Two-Session Stratiflighted Pairs</u></b></p> <p><b>A-X Flight</b> A: 3000+ X: 0-3000</p> <p><b>B-C-D Flight</b> B: 1250-2000 C: 500-1250 D: 0-500</p> <p><b>I/N Flight</b> A: 200-300 B: 100-200 C: 0-100</p>	<p><b>Sunday, August 7</b></p> <p><b>10:30 am / TBA</b> <b><u>Bracketed Swiss Teams</u></b> <b>Play at Your Own Level!</b></p> <p>Bracketed by Team Average Masterpoints</p>	<p><b>COVID-19 Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants must be <u>fully vaccinated</u> according to Health Canada guidelines at least 14 days in advance of the event.</li> <li>• Proof of vaccination is required.</li> <li>• All participants must have been COVID-free for at least 7 days and they may not have been in close contact with anyone known to have COVID within the last 7 days.</li> <li>• Masks are highly recommended – depending upon current risk status they may be mandatory. Be prepared to wear a mask.</li> <li>• Hand sanitizers will be readily available and participants are encouraged to use them.</li> </ul> <p><b>These protocols are subject to change in order to comply with current directives from the Province and/or SouthWest Health Unit.</b></p>
<p>Flight eligibility is based upon player with highest masterpoints. Stratification within flight is based upon average masterpoints. NOTE: Stratifications are dependent upon depth of field – Director may adjust.</p>		

**Entry Fees:** Pairs \$12.50 per player per session. Teams \$100 per team.

ACBL Members with Less than 5 Masterpoints receive one **FREE** session on Saturday.

**Players 25 years and younger play for \$5 per session.**

To participate in this tournament, players must have an ACBL Player Number.

Non-ACBL members are welcome and will receive a complementary temporary ACBL membership.

**Westfield Public School**  
**102 Dereham Drive**  
**Tillsonburg, ON N4G 0G5**  
Ph: 519-842-2461

**Free Coffee and Snacks Throughout**

**Catered Lunch Available On-Site Daily - \$10**

Individually Packed Deli Lunch Plate including potato, macaroni and cole slaw salads, cold meats, bun, boiled egg, celery and carrots, pickles, disposable cutlery and napkin.

This beautiful building is fully handicap-accessible, with a spacious playing area and excellent lighting.

**Host Hotel**



**92 Simcoe Street, Tillsonburg**  
Phone directly to the Hotel to receive

a 10% discount rate:

**1-866-942-7366**

Smoking is not allowed anywhere on school property.  
(If you are smoking we will treat you as if you are on fire!)

**Map and Driving Directions on the Reverse  
Side of this Flyer**

# Tillsonburg Sectional

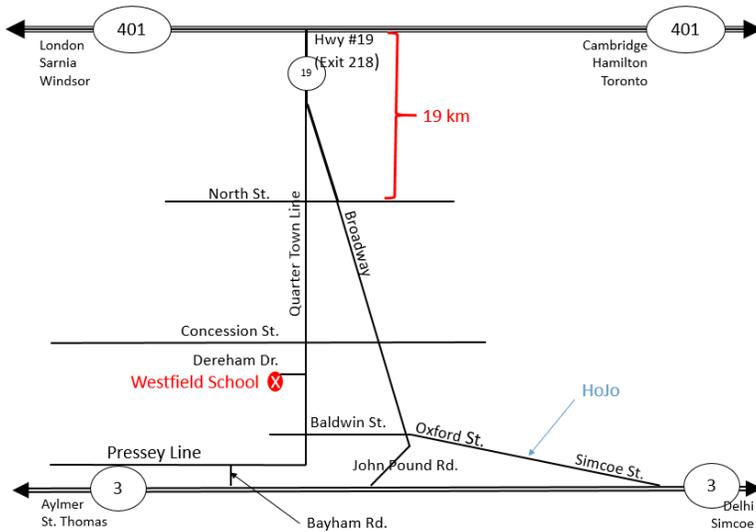
## Site Location and Driving Directions

### **Site Location:** Westfield Public School

102 Dereham Drive, N4G 0G5

(off Quarter Town Line\* on the west side of Tillsonburg)

\*Please note that some references may show as Quarterline Road – this is the same road!



### **Driving Directions**

#### **From Highway 401:**

1. Exit at Hwy 19 (Exit 218).
2. Go southward 19 km to Tillsonburg.
3. Turn right at Second traffic light (North St).
4. Travel 500 m westward on North St. to 4-way Stop (Quarter Town Line).
5. Turn left on Quarter Town Line.
6. Drive southward on Quarter Town Line for 1.6 km until you come to a Stop sign (Concession St).
7. Continue southward on Quarter Town Line another 530 m to the first street on the right (Dereham Dr.).
8. Turn right on Dereham Drive to school.

#### **From Simcoe/Delhi**

1. Travel westward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit onto Simcoe St.
3. Travel westward full length of Simcoe and Oxford Streets to Downtown Tillsonburg (7.1 km) (5<sup>th</sup> traffic light).
4. At corner of Broadway Ave and Oxford St. angle slightly left and follow Baldwin Street westward.
5. Continue westward on Baldwin St. for 1.8 km to Quarter Town Line.
6. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m to Dereham Drive. (Dereham Drive is 2nd street on the left).
7. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

#### **From St. Thomas/Aylmer**

1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Turn left onto Bayham Drive just before Tillsonburg.
3. Travel 1 km on Bayham Drive to Pressey Line.
4. Turn right on Pressey Line and continue 1.3 km eastward until it makes a 90 degree left curve and becomes Quarter Town Line.
5. Continue northward on Quarter Town Line for 1.1 km to Dereham Dr. (Dereham Drive is 3rd street on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

#### **Alternatively from St. Thomas/Aylmer**

1. Travel eastward on Highway 3 to Tillsonburg.
2. Exit Highway 3 at John Pound Road – turning left.
3. Follow John Pond Road into downtown Tillsonburg (first traffic signal).
4. Turn left at light and go 1.3 km westward on Baldwin St. to Quarter Town Line.
5. Turn right on Quarter Town Line and travel northward 650 m (Dereham Drive is 2nd road on the left).
6. Turn left on Dereham Drive to school.

Summer

# Niagara-on-the-Lake Sectional August 19-21, 2022



NOTL Community Centre  
14 Anderson Lane, NOTL  
(off Hwy 55/Mississauga Rd)  
905-468-4386

## 0-499 Tournament

### Friday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

499 Pairs 7:00pm  
99 Pairs 7:00pm

### Saturday August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

499 Pairs 10:30am & 3:00pm  
99 Pairs 10:30am & 3:00pm

Lunch will be available for purchase

### Sunday August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

499 Pairs 10:30am & 3:00pm  
99 Pairs 10:30am & 3:00pm

Lunch will be available for purchase

All players are required to abide by  
the COVID protocols of ACBL and the  
Province of Ontario



www.unit255.com

## Silver Points

Great Venue • Prizes • Free Parking

Most Friendly Atmosphere

### Tournament Chair:

Chandi Jayawardena 905-941-1676  
Email chandij@sympatico.ca

### Partnership Chair:

Peggy-Sue Verkerk 905-359-0159  
Email peggysueshaver@yahoo.com

### Stratification

(Pair Average and strats adjusted as attendance warrants)

499 Pairs 100 - 500  
99 Pairs 0 - 100

### General Information

All Events are Playthrough or Single Session

\$15/player/session for ACBL members

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members

Temporary membership for non-ACBL members will  
be available.

All events stratified by average masterpoints.

Sectional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison of  
**HollisWealth**<sup>®</sup>

(905) 937-0962

Jac.morrison@holliswealth.com

# Niagara Regional



# November 8-13, 2022



Niagara Falls



Welland Canal



Niagara on the Lake - Clock Tower

## Booking Your Hotel

### Playing Site:

#### Holiday Inn

327 Ontario St.,  
St Catharines, ON. L2R 5L3  
Reservations 1-855-516-1090

Reserve before October 3, 2022 and request the ACBL rate at the following hotels:

#### Holiday Inn

\$119  
Single or Double

#### Holiday Inn

\$159  
Full Kitchenette Suites

## GREAT NIAGARA FEATURES

- ♥ Warm Welcome Greetings
- ♥ FREE I/N Lecture @ 9:00am
- ♥ FANTASTIC Niagara Hospitality  
(after the 2<sup>nd</sup> session)
- ♥ Section Top Prizes
- ♥ FREE Parking
- ♥ GOLD RUSH games
- ♥ KO Teams games
- ♥ Swiss games

Tournament Chair:  
Partnership Chair:

Kathy Morrison  
Elaine Gill

(289) 968-9889  
(905) 386-6193

kmorrison37@icloud.com  
gillelaine1943@gmail.com

# Event Schedule

## Tuesday November 8

<b>Niagara Bracketed KO Teams</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 <sup>er</sup> Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Gold Rush Pairs</b>	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake <b>Swiss</b>	2:30

## Wednesday November 9

<b>Free I/N Lecture</b>	9:00
<b>Niagara Bracketed KO Teams</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Whirlpool Bracketed KO Teams</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 <sup>er</sup> Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Gold Rush Pairs</b>	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake <b>Swiss</b>	2:30
<b>Mentoring</b>	7:30

## Thursday November 10

<b>Free I/N Lecture</b>	9:00
<b>Whirlpool Bracketed KO Teams</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Hornblower Bracketed KO Teams</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 <sup>er</sup> Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Gold Rush Pairs</b>	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake <b>Swiss</b>	2:30

## Friday November 11

<b>Free I/N Lecture</b>	9:00
<b>Hornblower Bracketed KO Teams</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> of 4 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Fort Erie Compact Bracketed KO Teams</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 <sup>er</sup> Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Gold Rush Pairs</b>	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake <b>Swiss</b>	2:30

## Saturday November 12

<b>Grimsby Compact Bracketed KO Teams</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> of 2 sessions)	10:00 & 2:30
St Catharines Open Pairs	10:00 & 2:30
99 <sup>er</sup> Pairs Single Session	10:00 & 2:30
<b>Gold Rush Pairs</b>	10:00 & 2:30
Niagara on the Lake <b>Swiss</b>	2:30

## Sunday November 13

<b>Bracketed</b> Swiss Teams	10:00 & 2:30
------------------------------	--------------



Regional Tournament Sponsored by

Jaclyn Morrison of



(905) 937-0962

[jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca](mailto:jac.morrison@iaprivatewealth.ca)

### Stratification

(subject to Director's discretion)

**Stratified events** are based on average MP holding of pair or team

#### Gold Rush

**0 to 750 masterpoints**

Each player less than 750MP

#### 99er

**0 to 100 masterpoints**

#### Open Pairs

**0 to ∞ masterpoints**

Extra \$4 for lapsed ACBL members  
Temporary membership for non-ACBL members will be available.

### Zero Tolerance Tournament – Play Nice

For Additional tournament details visit our website at: [www.unit255.com](http://www.unit255.com)

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**Andy Stark**  
[andy.kibitzer@gmail.com](mailto:andy.kibitzer@gmail.com)  
647-530-1360



**Robert Griffiths**  
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**Claude Tremblay**  
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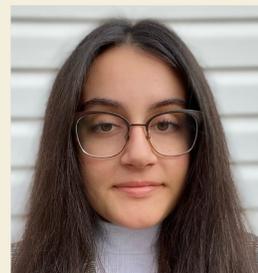
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**Albena Vassileva**  
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**Deadline for the Fall 2022 Kibitzer: July 15, 2022**

*The Kibitzer*

Andy Stark

126 Ivy Ave., Toronto ON M4L 2H7